



# Pen City Current

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 7

## Randolph, Greenwald step aside

*After 14 years both mayor, councilman bow out with nod to city staff*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It was a short and bitter sweet meeting for former Mayor Brad Randolph and city councilman Chris Greenwald.

The two ended their terms after 14 years as councilmen, mayor pro-tem, and mayor.

The two have run tandem since being elected in 2005, with Randolph being appointed mayor after Steve Ireland's death in 2012. Randolph was re-elected to the post each time, until he decided not to seek the office again in 2019.

Greenwald was first elected to the 2nd ward, but then switched to first ward councilman in the 2011 election after pur-



chasing a home that was annexed into the city in the first ward.

Also at the meeting, newly elected Mayor Matt Mohrfeld was sworn in by Randolph, as were incumbents Kevin Rink and Chad Cangas, and newly elected 1st Ward councilwoman Rebecca Bowker and 3rd Ward councilman

Tyler Miller.

Greenwald took time during the councilmen's comments to thank the entire staff and department heads for their service and said despite banging heads on issues, he leaves with total faith in their abilities to run the city, and started with Police Chief Mark Rohloff.



"First of all it was a matter of public record that when we first hired you, chief, there was folks that felt that there was no police chief that was going to satisfy a couple council members," Greenwald said.

"And I've got a sneaking suspicion that I might have been one of those

being talked about. As you live and breathe, you're proof that that just wasn't true. I thank you and your wife for coming to Fort Madison."

Greenwald said he and Fire Chief Joey Herren had interesting times and he's earned Greenwald's

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

## Burchett in as next FMCH CEO

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) Board of Directors has named Shelby Burchett as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FMCH effective January 6, 2020.

Burchett currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO). She will step into the role currently

held by Jeremy Alexander. Alexander has been filling the dual role of CEO of FMCH and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Great River Health System for the past year. He will continue in the position of CFO for the health system.



BURCHETT

Alexander has been in the CEO position since 2017 when he took on the role of Interim President/CEO after the resignation of Pat Bira in August. The position became permanent in February of 2018.

Shelby Burchett has been with FMCH since 2002. She began her career at FMCH as a nurse on the Medical/Surgical Unit. Since then, Burchett has held many positions including Director of Quality, Lean Facilitator, Vice President of Patient Care Services and most recently Chief Operating

See **CEO**, page 5

## Firefighters battle two blazes Tuesday

*Avenue D house fire starts in attic; Red Cross called in*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters battled two blazes on Tuesday, one ending with a family being displaced from their home.

At about 6:45 p.m. a fire broke out in the attic of home at 429 Avenue D. No one was at the home at the time the fire broke out, according to Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren.

The fire is under investigation, but he he said the point of origin was in the attic.

See **FIRE**, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren talks to a neighbor after a fire broke out at a home at 429 Avenue D Tuesday night.

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# Current-Lee/Weather

## CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current. These listings are updated throughout the week and run in our E-edition regularly.

### Veterans' Assembly

The Fort Madison High School will be holding their annual Veterans' Assembly in the high school gymnasium beginning at 2 p.m. Thursday. All area veterans and those currently serving in a branch of the armed services are invited and encouraged to attend.

### The Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Enchanted Forest again this year in the Old Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G. Businesses have sponsored Christmas trees that will be on display each Saturday before Christmas from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Partners Annual Dinner

The Fort Madison Annual Dinner is set for Feb. 21, 2020.

### Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

### Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Commu-

nity Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

### Christmas Eve Services

Fort Madison United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Eve service at 4:30 pm on December 24. Pastor Lanette Van will provide the message. All are welcome.

### Immunization Clinic

Lee County Health Department will hold a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Lee County Health Department, located at #3 John Bennett Dr., Fort Madison from 1pm until 4:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. Forms may be obtained at our website listed below. Free lead testing is available for ALL children ages 6mos to 6 years that reside in Iowa. Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org).

### City offices closed

Fort Madison City offices will be closing at noon on Tuesday, December 24th, and will be closed Wednesday, December 25th and Wednesday, January 1st for the holidays. For the week of Christmas, recycling for Route A will be moved from Wednesday, December 25th to Tuesday, December 24th. For the week of

New Year's, recycling for Route B will be moved from Wednesday, January 1st to Tuesday, December 31st. All garbage routes will remain the same.

### FM Day at Carver Hawkeye

It will be Fort Madison Day at Carver Hawkeye Arena on Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. Tickets for the game include a t-shirt for \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. A bus ticket for a Trailways ride to the game is \$5. Tickets can be purchased through Dec. 11 at the Partners office.

### Ornament workshop

The Fort Madison Public Library is hosting a Christmas Ornament Workshop on Dec. 24 from 9:30 to noon at the library with a visit from Santa Claus.

### Blackhawk Winter Skills Camp

The 2019 Blackhawk Baseball Winter Break Skills and Evaluation Camps will be held Friday and Monday Dec. 27th and 30th. Youth MVP camp and an Advanced & Evaluation Camp will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for ages 13-18 at Loren Walker Arena. Cost is \$75 for both days. For more information contact Justin Schulte at 319-208-5047 or by email at [jschulte@sciiowa.edu](mailto:jschulte@sciiowa.edu).

### Roarin' in the 20s

Small Grand Things will be hosting a Roarin' in the the 20s New Year's Eve Dance from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the venue located south of West Point on West Point Road.

### Baxter Sports Complex Fundraiser

The 3rd annual Baxter Sports Complex Social Tour and Auction Fundraiser on Feb. 29, 2020. Tickets will be on sale soon at the sports complex.

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**THU 19 Dec**  
Sunny  
High- 35.6° F | Low - 31.0° F

**FRI 20 Dec**  
Overcast  
High- 37.8° F | Low - 31.3° F

**SAT 21 Dec**  
Sunny  
High- 41.4° F | Low - 33.1° F

**SUN 22 Dec**  
Sunny  
High- 44.3° F | Low - 37.1° F

**MON 23 Dec**  
Overcast  
High- 46.5° F | Low - 42.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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## Local News

# ISP staff makes donations

FORT MADISON - Iowa State Penitentiary staff are in the holiday spirit this year. Organizers set out to collect donations for the local food pantry, warm jackets and hats for area schools and gifts for Christmas for Kids/Teens program. The drive ended in success.

Staff embraced the season of giving by donating 455 pounds of food to the local pantry. The donations were well rounded with canned fruits, vegetables and a myriad of other items. Coats, jackets and hats were also brought in to help

those area youth who may need a bit of extra warmth this winter.

In addition, new gifts were brought in for the Christmas for Kids/Teens program and Christmas for Foster Kids of Southeast Iowa.

Throughout the year staff also donate money to the food pantry and other charitable organizations such as the American Cancer Society and Special Olympics. Jean days and food fundraisers primarily make up the bulk of the cash donations by staff.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Community School District President Dr. Tim Wondra was presented with a Best Boardsmanship Award from the Iowa Association of School Board's Kyle Grimes at last week's state convention.

# Garage fire started by theft of power

**FIRE** - Continued from Page 1

"It's under investigation but we believe it started with some wiring in the attic," Herren said.

He said the damage was heavy enough that the family wasn't able to return to the home.

"I notified Red Cross and they're helping."

At around 11 a.m., firefighters were called to the 2600 block of Avenue where a garage had caught fire.

Herren said residents were stealing electricity from Alliant energy by running wires from the meter base on the garage to the house and the make-shift junction box caught fire.

Due to the close proximity of the fire station, the building wasn't a total loss.

"It had some minor fire and smoke damage and some damage to the rafters, but it was pretty close to the station and we got it down pretty quick," Herren said.



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## Thurmans lead HTC to win over Van Buren

*Crusaders hold off 4th quarter rally for 59-49 win over Warriors*

BY PCC STAFF

VAN BUREN – Jason and Vasin Thurman combined for 27 points to help Holy Trinity Catholic to its second win of the year, 59-49 over Van Buren Tuesday night.

The Crusaders (2-3) were coming off a last-second loss to then-undefeated Burlington Notre Dame on Friday night. The Nikes were upset by New London Tuesday night 59-57.

Holy Trinity got behind early in a nip-and-tuck first quarter not getting their first bucket until almost three minutes had gone by. Van Buren freshman Jackson Manning hit a 3-ball to get the scoring going out of the tip for the Warriors, who would go up 5-0 before the Crusaders would get on the board.

HTC would battle back and take a lead at 9-7, but another Jonah Heckenberg 3-ball would give Van Buren a 10-9 lead at the end of one. Jason Thurman had five of the Crusaders first nine points on two free throws and 3-pointer from his guard spot.

Van Buren would surrender the lead again at 11-10 with six minutes left in the half and HTC would stretch that lead to five at 17-12 before the Warriors came rushing back on a 11-4 run to take a 23-21 lead with one minute left in the half.

But in the final minute of the half, HTC would tack on six points to Van Buren's two for a 27-25 half time lead.

Out of the locker room, the Crusaders would push their advantage to as much as 12 at 44-32 at the end of three behind senior Quentin Schneider's six points.

Holding a 16-point lead at 48-32 going into the final period, the Crusaders got ice cold with about five minutes left and were held scoreless until less than a minute remained in the game. The Warriors were able to chip away at the lead cutting it to seven with a minute left, but HTC would run away in the final minute on a 5-2 run to put the game out of reach.

Vasin Thurman had 15 points on the night, while Jason Thurman had 12. Schneider finished with 10. Chandler Rung had eight, all in the second half. Crabtree finished with nine, all in the first half and Matt Hellige had seven on the night.

The Crusaders host WACO in a girls/boys double header Friday night at Shottenkirk Gym.

## Holy Trinity girls go flat in 2nd half in loss to No. 4 VB

BY PCC STAFF

VAN BUREN – The Holy Trinity Catholic girls basketball team got behind early and then fell off a cliff against one of the best girls basketball teams in the state.

No. 4 Van Buren hosted the Crusaders and quickly ran out to a 20-8 first quarter lead and then outscored HTC 16-7 in the seven in the second quarter.

But the steep hill the Crusaders found themselves in was nothing compared to the second half, where Van Buren held HTC to just two points running away for a 66-17 win.

No HTC girl had more than four points with Kassi Randolph and Claire Pothitakis eaching scoring a couple baskets. Ashlyn Haas chipped in with a 3-pointer for her only points of the night. Avery Hopper, Brooke Mueller and Raquel Schneider all had two points on the night.

The Crusaders (3-3) host WACO in a girls/boys varsity doubleheader Friday night at Shottenkirk Gym.



Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree

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## Sports/Lottery Numbers

# Fort Madison boys hold on to win at Danville

*Bloodhounds looking for first conference win Friday night*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison boys basketball team will be looking for its first conference win of the year on Friday when they travel to Keokuk.

The Hounds (2-4) are coming off a 57-44 win Monday night on the road at Danville.

Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Wilson said the Hounds got out to quick start, but the Bears rallied in the first quarter to take a 17-14 lead.

“Danville rallied back with us missing shots and them pushing, and our guys were not getting back in transition,” Wilson said.

“In the 2nd quarter we switched to a zone defense and that gave them troubles the rest of the night.”

A trait of the Hounds in wins is that they get bal-

anced scoring and that held to form Monday with senior Jayden Fedler and sophomore Dayton Davis each pitching in 16 to lead Fort Madison.

Davis shot just 25% from the field going 4 of 16 and missed on all four of his 3-point attempts, but heated up at the free throw line going 8 of 12.

Fedler was a little hotter working under the basket going 7 of 19 for 37% and was 2-of 3 at the free throw line. Fedler also controlled the glass all night with 15 rebounds. Senior Parker Denning was second with eight boards.

The Hounds held a 29-27 advantage at halftime and pushed the lead to 43-39 at the end of three. Then Fort Madison’s defense stepped up and held Danville to just five points in the final period to slip away for the win.

“We played great half court defense and rebounded very well. We’re still missing a lot of shots around the rim and have to start converting those soon,” Wilson said.

He said Keokuk will press and then slip into a trapping half court defense and the Hounds will have to

take care of the ball to have a shot at getting their first conference win of the year.

The Hounds are 0-2 in the Southeast Conference this year with losses to Mt. Pleasant and Fairfield already on the books. Keokuk is 2-2 on the year and 1-1 in loop action with a win over Mt. Pleasant and a loss to Burlington.

Senior guard Michael Mosena had a season high 11 points Monday, followed by Denning with eight. Miles Dear had four and Julian Navarro had a bucket to round out the scoring for Fort Madison.

Davis had six steals, six assists and five boards. He leads the conference in steals and is second in assists. Fedler and Davis are 3rd and 4th in scoring at 13.4 and 13.0 points per game respectively.

Fedler is tops in rebounding in the conference, almost doubling the next closest player. He has 48 on the year, 26 of those are offensive boards and the next closest is the Bloodhounds’ Denning, Mt. Pleasant’s Brody Bender and Brock Sobaski of Washington, all with 25 total rebounds.

## Burchett hopes to build efficiencies

**CEO** - Continued from Page 1

Officer.

She received her Associates Degree in Nursing from Southeastern Community College and her Bachelors of Nursing and Masters of Nursing in Management and Leadership, degrees from the University of Iowa.

“Over the past year as the Chief Operating Officer, Shelby has collaborated with me on the day-to-day operations of the organization while also working alongside the administrative team, leaders, and staff to align operations with the facility’s overall strategic vision. She has done a tremendous job,” Alexander said.

“I, along with the FMCH Board of Directors, feel Shelby will successfully lead FMCH through this time of change as we pursue a number of new initiatives.”

“I appreciate the trust placed in me to lead Fort Madison Community Hospital. I am passionate about building efficiencies to ensure safe, quality health care is available for our patients, while my deepest satisfaction comes from guiding our employees to be their best so they can achieve success. It is my belief overall organizational success will be achieved by bringing these two concepts together,” Burchett said.

“Continuing to build on the work started by Jeremy and the synergies identified for the health system is a top priority as we move into the New Year.”



ALEXANDER

## Youth wrestlers compete at weekend events

FORT MADISON - This past Sunday Fort Madison youth wrestlers competed at two different tournaments in Cedar Rapids and Keokuk.

Teague Smith got a first place and Ike Thacher got second place and at Cedar Rapids Prairie.

While at Keokuk, Crue Sirucek, Ren Watson, Rainer Johnson, Wyatt Day, Lo-

gan Pennock, Joe Hartman all brought home first place medals.

James Fuller, Owen DiFederico, and Gavyn Siemens earned second place medals, while Chris St.Clair, Orion St.Clair and Oliver Schelich each took third.

Fourth place finishers were Jarron Counts, Cliff Stewart, Shawn Watkins.



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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



**12/17**  
22 30 53 55 56  
Mega Ball: 16  
Megaplier: 2



**12/17 MID-DAY**  
0 8 1  
**12/17 EVENING**  
3 7 9



**12/17 MID-DAY**  
6 6 1 6  
**12/17 EVENING**  
3 0 7 9

## Fa..la..la..ling

Here are some winter weather tips to prevent falls:

- ◆ Wear shoes with good traction.
- ◆ Dress warm, if you are warm, your muscles will stay relaxed.
- ◆ Be careful getting out of your car – watch for icy patches and black ice.
- ◆ Take extra time and pay attention.
- ◆ Keep your driveway and walkways clear.
- ◆ Ask for help if needed!

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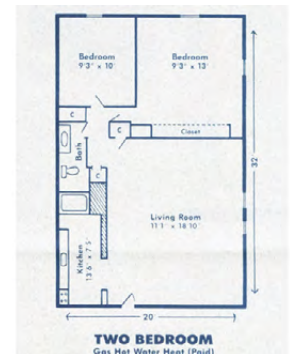
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# There's Snow Place Like Home for the Holidays.

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1. Our special 2019 Year In Review editions will publish Thursday, January 2 through Wednesday, January 8. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

*As we enjoy the holidays with family and friends, we thank you for your support and patronage and wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

## From the Front

# New city council, mayor to get to business after New Year

**COUNCIL** - Continued from Page 1

respect as a fire chief, as has Sarah Clendineng, the city's librarian.

Greenwald then addressed Building Director Doug Krogmeier.

"Doug, your job sucks," Greenwald said to laughter from the crowd. "You do a great job at it. I don't know how you do your job. I try to put myself in your shoes... I don't know how you do it."

He said city finance director Peggy Steffensmeier has handled budgeting well, and said there was questions whether he trusted city staff with budgets.

"If budgets were easy we wouldn't need councils," he said. "Everybody sitting up here is doing what they think is best for Fort Madison, we just have different ways of looking at it."

The other councilman thanked Greenwald and Randolph for their service to the city.

Randolph said he would be meeting with department heads before the end of the year one on one.

"I would like to thank first of all the citizens for their support they've given me in my tenure on council," he said.

"I'd also like to thank the volunteers we appoint year over year that occupy boards and commissions that come in on their own free will and do what they feel is best for the city."

He thanked the employees of the city for providing services and keeping quality of life at its best so the citizens can continue to enjoy the city.

"I would also thank the department heads for their help and support over the years and would echo Chris' comments with the chief of police. I think you fit in extremely well with our community in the short time you've been here. You've been nothing but impressive, and you are matching the tenure of those sitting with you because they do a great job as well," Randolph said.

He thanked the council and said it's been an honor and he's looking forward to watching them take the city to the next level.

He then got emotional thanking Matt Mohrfeld for stepping into the role as Mayor and making his transition easy. And then pointed to his youngest daughter in the audience who came to the meeting, as the rest of his family had to attend another daughter's sporting event out of town.

"I want to thank my daughter....," Randolph said through tears. And then after a brief pause moved the discussion to other councilman.

Mohrfeld then presented Greenwald and Randolph both with plaques for their service.

"I've always been a supporter of these two. Chris has been very good when I came on the council and giving me insight to issues," Mohrfeld said.

"And I could only aspire to to be the quality of mayor Brad is. I think his leadership to the council, to the citizens and southeast Iowa - when you go somewhere with Brad he's well-respected among his peers and he puts a very good face on the city of Fort Madison. I can't say enough about the job you've done, and I'm going to miss you guys."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Newly elected 1st Ward Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker gets sworn into office by outgoing Mayor Brad Randolph at Tuesday's City Council meeting.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

New 3rd Ward councilman Tyler Miller is sworn in by Mayor Brad Randolph at Tuesday's City Council meeting.



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