



Pen City Current

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 129

Women's group donates to P.A.W. septic system

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The local chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority donated \$700 to the P.A.W. no-kill animal shelter in Fort Madison on Monday.

Karen Hope and Deb Sylvester presented the check to P.A.W. Director Sandy Brown at the facility.

The shelter is looking at some steep expenses in repairing the septic system after it failed earlier this spring. Brown said some preliminary work has been completed but she said when the tanks were dug up they found three tanks instead of two and

the shelter had all three tanks pumped out.

"They were looking decent," she said. "Worst case is replacing all three and a new leach field. Best case is that we would only have to expand our leach field, and then the other option is anything in between."

"Say we get new tanks, then we have to have those taken out, the ground dug up, regravell, and pull out our fence. And say the septic tanks are \$20,000 but then there's probably another \$20,000 in work that needs to be done to get them out and put everything back together."

She said the group will know in the next couple

of weeks from the engineer as to what will be the best option for the group.

Hope said the sorority is a group of about 20 local women that do fundraisers throughout the year to help local groups and the P.A.W. situation was an important one that they wanted to contribute to.

"We're donating \$500 from our funds, plus another \$200 from us individually, which isn't huge. But the real goal is to bring this to the front so others will do the same thing," she said.

The sorority is a worldwide entity with more than 200,000 women globally who network socially and help raise funds for their respective local



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Karen Hope, left, and Deb Sylvester, right, of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi present P.A.W. director Sandy Brown a check for \$700 to go toward septic repairs at the no-kill animal shelter.

charities.

Hope said this year the local chapter has been able to donate more because of a donation they received.

"This year is more than normal because the group

received a donation.

Technically, we only are supposed to do so much because of the non-profit status, but yay for this year because we get to do more," she said.

Other groups that have

received funds from the group include the Old Fort Committee and the North Lee County Food Pantry.

"This is so important and so expensive to them," Hope said.

Task force gets FM trio on drug charges

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of three Fort Madison, Iowa residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Connie Raye Martin, 41, Heavenly Wendy Omiatek, 20, and Douglas Scott Knittle, 48, of 836 Avenue F #2, Fort Madison, Iowa were arrested on May 4th, 2017 at their residence on misdemeanor drug charges.

Martin was charged with maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Martin faces up to 3 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

Omiatek was charged with possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. Omiatek faces up to 1 year and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Omiatek was also arrested on an outstanding warrant for trespassing.

Knittle was initially charged with possession of meth-

See DRUG HOUSE, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

National workforce and education expert Dr. Kevin Fleming holds a "Dr Phil" style roundtable with several local business and education experts on Monday morning at the Comfort Inn and Suites. Seated to Fleming's left are Dana Millard of Lee County Economic Development Group, Bryan Langerud of Pinnacle, Jenny Steffensmeier of Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg., and Dr. Michael Ash, president of Southeastern Community College.

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

PEGGY M. MILLER

Peggy M. Miller, 60, of West Burlington and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 8:53 AM at the Great River Medical Center.



MILLER

She was born on February 7, 1957 in Ft. Madison to Carl Robert and Hazel Smalley Miller. Peggy was a dietician for many years at several care facilities. She enjoyed music, cooking, animals and spending time with her family. Peggy was also a member of Keokuk Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include three sisters, Nancy Carolyn Corns of Burlington, Beverly Lemon of Ft. Madison and Judith Stephenson of Montrose; two brothers, James Miller of California and Larry Miller of Napa, California; numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and one brother.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and there will be no formal services at this time.

A memorial has been established in her memory. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

JEROME W. BRAY

Jerome W. Bray, 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Monday, May 22, 2017 at his home.

Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/18/17 - 1:58 p.m.

- Fort Madison police arrested Michelle Leanne Eid, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant service for FTA (failure to appear). She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

05/18/17 - 5:50 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Sayra Abigail Nunez, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue E, on a charge of striking an unattended vehicle. She was cited and released.

05/18/17 - 11:31 p.m.

- Fort Madison police arrested Jamie Lee Ahlen, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue E, on a warrant service for failure to serve time on OWI 2nd offense (Des Moines County). She was taken to the Des Moines County line.

05/19/17 - 7:56 a.m.

- Fort Madison police responded to a property

damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H. 05/19/17 - 9:36 a.m.

- Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Avenue G.

05/19/17 - 1:15 p.m. - A male juvenile was arrested on charges of burglary 3rd motor vehicle, possession of burglar tools, interference with official acts, tampering with a witness, and curfew violation.

05/19/17 - 1:15 p.m. - A female juvenile was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). 05/19/17 - 5:52 p.m.

- Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Avenue G. 05/20/17 - 2:20 a.m.

- Fort Madison police arrested Teresa Ellen Clark, 56, of Fort Madison, at 48th and Avenue J, on a charge of driving while suspended. She was released.

05/20/17 - 4:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue D.

05/20/17 - 4:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 700 block of 9th Street.

05/20/17 - 5:38 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue F.

05/21/17 - 12:39 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2400 block of Avenue D.

05/21/17 - 5:49 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the Reve Court area.

05/21/17 - 6:57 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested David Tom Witte, 31, of Afton, OK, in the 600 block of Crescent

Lane, on a charge of interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

05/21/17 - 10:31 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue H.

05/22/17 - 7:19 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 600 block of 8th Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/19/17 - 1:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Anthony Haage, 23 of Montrose at the sheriff's office on a charge of 2nd-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

05/19/17 - 2:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Douglas Scott Knittle, 48, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue F on a

charges of drug trafficking 5 grams to 100kg of methamphetamine and drug tax stamp violations. He was taken to Lee

County Jail and held. 05/19/17 - 5:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacqueline Lee Schaller, 24

of Ottumwa in the 200 block of Osage Drive in Ottumwa on two warrants of violation of probation.

05/19/17 - 11:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident at the intersection of 240th Street and 180th Street. A

vehicle driven by James Anthony Beechtree, 51, See RECORD, page 2

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Lee Vandenberg, Sales manager
319-371-4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
319-371-1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com



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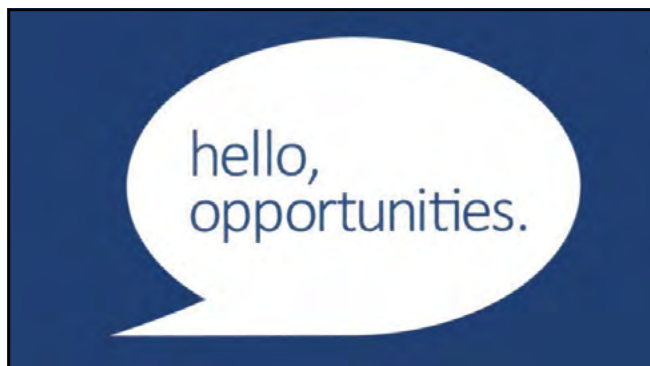
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Local News/For the Record

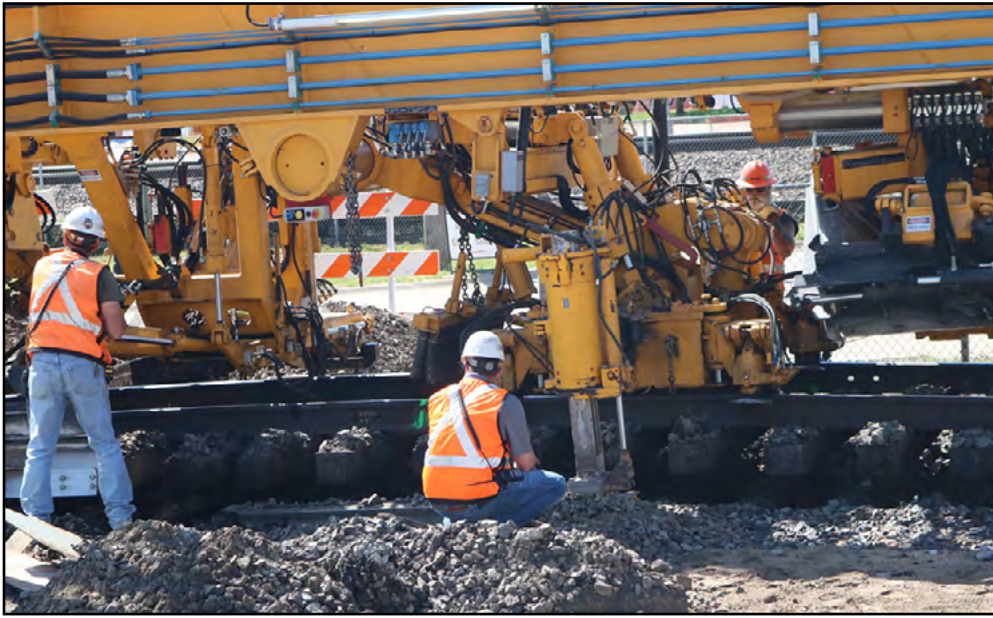


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BNSF workers use monstrous automated track lifters on Friday as they worked to get improvements constructed at all the at-grade crossings from 2nd Street through 23rd Street in Fort Madison. The work was completed late Friday.



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
All or Nothing™ - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:45 pm
All or Nothing™ - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:45 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm



5/22
12 16 31 43 46
Lucky Ball: 15



5/22 MID-DAY
5 9 10 12 13 14
17 18 20 22 23 24

5/22 EVENING
1 2 3 5 10 11
12 13 14 20 21 23



5/22 MID-DAY
3 2 9
5/22 EVENING
1 7 2



5/22 MID-DAY
9 4 3 9
5/22 EVENING
3 4 5 1

The Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R's!



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE FOR A HAPPIER EARTH!

Here are some helpful tips:

REDUCE

***Reduce the amount of waste produced in society**

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines.

- Buy durable goods & products in bulk
- Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
- Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
- Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
- Maintain central files for multiple individuals
- Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

REUSE

*** Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose**

It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.

- Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
- Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

RECYCLE

*** Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material**

Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.

- Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers (see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
- Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
- Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

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Sports

Lady Hounds end season on high note

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Kalifa McCaleb scored a goal and had three assists to lead Fort Madison in a 5-0 win over Mt. Pleasant in the regular season finale on Monday at the Baxter Sports Complex. It was senior night for the soccer team and the FMHS girls tennis team. Taylor Shannan and Emily Wolf each scored two goals in the 5-0 win in Southeast Conference

action. The Bloodhounds finish the regular season 10-6 overall and 5-3 in the conference, by far the best season in the program's four years. The Hounds led 3-0 at half-time.

"Our offense played really well today. We were able to connect on a lot of passes, cross the ball in well and generated a lot of opportunities," said Head Coach Sebastian Seifert.

Brynn Schroeder and Sarah Bernhardt each

also had assists in the game. Josie Pumphrey and Leigh Johnson split time at keeper preserving the shutout. McCaleb was named player of the game.

"We had several opportunities to score a few more goals, hopefully we can convert more on Thursday when it's do or die," Seifert said.

Thursday starts district soccer play with times and locations to be announced.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS junior Taylor Shannan scores one of her two goals in the Bloodhounds 5-0 win over Mt. Pleasant in the regular season finale Monday at Baxter Sports Complex.

HTC boys advance in districts

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity boys soccer team advanced in district play Monday night with a 6-1 win over Cedar Valley Christian.

Senior Nick Pothitakis scored two goals and had three assists to lead the

Crusaders. Aden Alfred scored two goals and Adam Rauenbuehler and Wyatt Hellman each popped in a goal. Connor Conrad had an assist and Bailey Merschman had five saves in the contest.

The time and location of their next match has yet to be determined.



FMHS seniors Clayton Poe, above, and CJ Richardson, below, sign letters of intent earlier this month. Poe signed to play football at Iowa Western and Richardson will play basketball at Central College next year.



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FMHS boys end season

PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT - The FMHS boys fell to Mt. Pleasant 4-0 in district play to end their season Monday night.

Javier Trejo had 23 saves in the match.

The Hounds ended the season 3-14 and 0-8 in Southeast Conference action.

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Local News

For the Record

Cont'd. from page 3
of Donnellson lost control and went through a ditch and fenced in area striking a small evergreen. Beechtree was transported to FMCH for injuries sustained in the accident. The report indicates Beechtree will be OWI-1st offense, transporting an open container and failure to maintain control. 05/20/17 - 2:02 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at 295th Avenue and Academy Avenue. A vehicle driven by Andrew James Bleything, 26 of Denmark lost control and crashed through a chain link fence before striking part of a natural gas pipeline and damaging the line. Deputies found no one at the scene but found the address of the owner of the vehicle and went to locate him at his address. Bleything was cited for failure to maintain or use a safety belt, failure to maintain control and failure to obey a stop sign.

No injuries were reported. 05/20/17 - 3:07 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Darin Michael Bleything, 30, of Fort Madison in the 300 block of Vica Lane, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody, domestic assault impeding air/blood flow, 4th-degree criminal mischief and on a judgement hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 5/20/17 - 9:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Valley Road where a vehicle driven by Erin Nicole Lovell, 16, of Keokuk suffered a blow front tire causing the vehicle to enter the ditch. No injuries were reported and no citations were issued at the scene. 05/21/17 - midnight - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hillcrest Road. A vehicle driven by Garret Lee Weirather, 19 of Keokuk lost traction and entered the ditch and then struck a tree. No

injuries were reported and Weirather was cited for failure to maintain control. 05/21/17 - 12:54 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tammera Lynn Simmons, 56 of Montrose in the 2500 block of 270th Street on a warrant for domestic abuse assault. She was released the same day on her own recognizance. 05/21/17 - 3:27 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shane Michael Blanchard, 35 of Wever, in the 1400 block of 303rd Avenue on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released the same day on a promise to appear. 05/21/17 - 4:55 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Devin LeRoy Stark, 22 of Mediapolis, at the intersection of 212th Street and Hwy 103 on charges of OWI, driving on the wrong side of two-way highway, open container and speeding. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.


05/21/17 - 8:18 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Axtell, 19, of Wayland, Mo., at the Lee County sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/22/17 - midnight - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brian Lee Benedict, 44, of Keokuk, no location given on a warrant of contempt of court for non-payment. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Felony, misdemeanor charges in bust


DRUG HOUSE - Continued from Page 1

amphetamine, a simple misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. Knittle would also be charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine in excess of five grams while in possession of a firearm within 1000 feet of a park, a class B felony with enhancements, drug tax stamp violation, a class D felony, possession of marijuana, a serious misdemeanor, and maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, Knittle faces up to 64 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of these three individuals stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. A search warrant was served in connection to this investigation and items supporting the charges were discovered.



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Local News/Area News


5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 24 May —
 Light Rain
 Low – 56.2° F | High – 51.1° F

THU 25 May —
 Clear Skies
 Low – 57.4° F | High – 65.9° F

FRI 26 May —
 Moderate Rain
 Low – 71.6° F | High – 78.0° F

SAT 27 May —
 Clear Skies
 Low – 58.0° F | High – 72.8° F

SUN 28 May —
 Heavy Intensity Rain
 Low – 58.3° F | High – 68.0° F

The Pen City Current e-Edition will not be published Sunday or Monday, May 28th or 29th, due to the holiday. Publication will resume Tuesday, May 30th. The website will be updated as news happens.

34th Place group donates 88 flags

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
 PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A local watch group has made good on its efforts to replace the flags at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. On Monday evening, 88 flags were donated at the Fort Madison Fire Department, which oversees the handling of the flags.

The group, spearheaded by Heath Hawthorne who coordinated the flag campaign, Verl Cartwright and Bill Noll, two veterans with the 34th Place Neighborhood watch group, presented the flags at the fire department.

Five of the flags were donated in honor of local veterans; Jack Kenneth Foreman (U.S. Navy WWII), Bob Manka and his father (U.S. Marines WWII, Vietnam), Sean Noll (U.S. Army), and Joe Millmeyer.

The flags at the memorial in Oakland Cemetery on Avenue O had seen better days and the west end group, who typically



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Members of the 34th Place Neighborhood Watch group donated 88 American flags to the Fort Madison Fire Department to replace tattered flags at Soldiers Circle at Oakland Cemetery. The group wanted to raise funds and flags to donate 50 and were able to donate some future replacements.

are watching out for each other's property, were out to honor local fallen veterans and asked for the community's help to help them reach their goal.

Lorie Seager, one of the members of the watch group, said the cost of 50 flags was \$1,645. The group donated 88 flags so the department would

have a reserve supply. The flags are nylon all-weather flags so they will have a long life-span.

The group said the flags were in poor condition and there was no budget anywhere to replace the flags. The Fort Madison Fire Department has taken on the responsibility of putting up and bringing

down the flags after taking it over from the local VFW chapter because only or two of that group remain.

The group gave special thanks to the Pen City Cruisers, Dry Creek Neighborhood Watch, and Lincoln Neighborhood Watch Group for their assistance in procuring the flags.

Lee County disaster drill Wednesday

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Emergency Preparedness Task Force will be conducting a county-wide disaster drill on Wednesday, May 24th, 2017. This mock disaster will take place at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose, and drill a mass shooting incident.

The drill will begin at 8:30 a.m. Each community partner participating in this mock disaster drill has set organizational goals and objectives to accomplish to better prepare them for a real-life incident.

Emergency service agencies participating include: Lee County EMS, Fort Madison Community Hospital,

Keokuk Area Hospital, Lee County Health Department, Lee County Sheriff, Montrose Fire and Police Department, Fort Madison Police Department and Lee County Emergency Management.

Area residents are urged to note the date and time of the disaster drill so as not to be alarmed when the large number of Emergency Service vehicles make their way to the scene for the drill. Also if you are visiting one of the participating organizations during the drill there may be some mock precautions put in place.

Lee County runs an annual county-wide disaster drill to formulate a plan for the distribution of resources and communication among our community partners.

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