



# Pen City Current

Friday, December 21, 2018 | 16 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 14

## FM schools rank above state watch lists

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A freshly released report that identifies state school districts' performances against federal benchmarks has given Fort Madison School District something to celebrate this holiday season.

According to information released by the Iowa Department of Education this week, a report called the Iowa School Performance Profile identified state school districts that are in need of comprehensive support, which is based on overall performance, or "Targeted" support which is based on

performance of certain student subgroups. No Fort Madison schools were listed as needing that support and were shown to have student performances that exceed the benchmarks for requiring improvement plans.

Fort Madison High School had the highest overall score in the district with a 52.65. The state overall average is 54.91. The three other remaining schools all had a 51.3 score based on a perfect score of 100. The performance ratings, or scores, are complex combined values based on spring Iowa Assessment tests, and a survey taken by students from 5th grade to 12th grade in each district

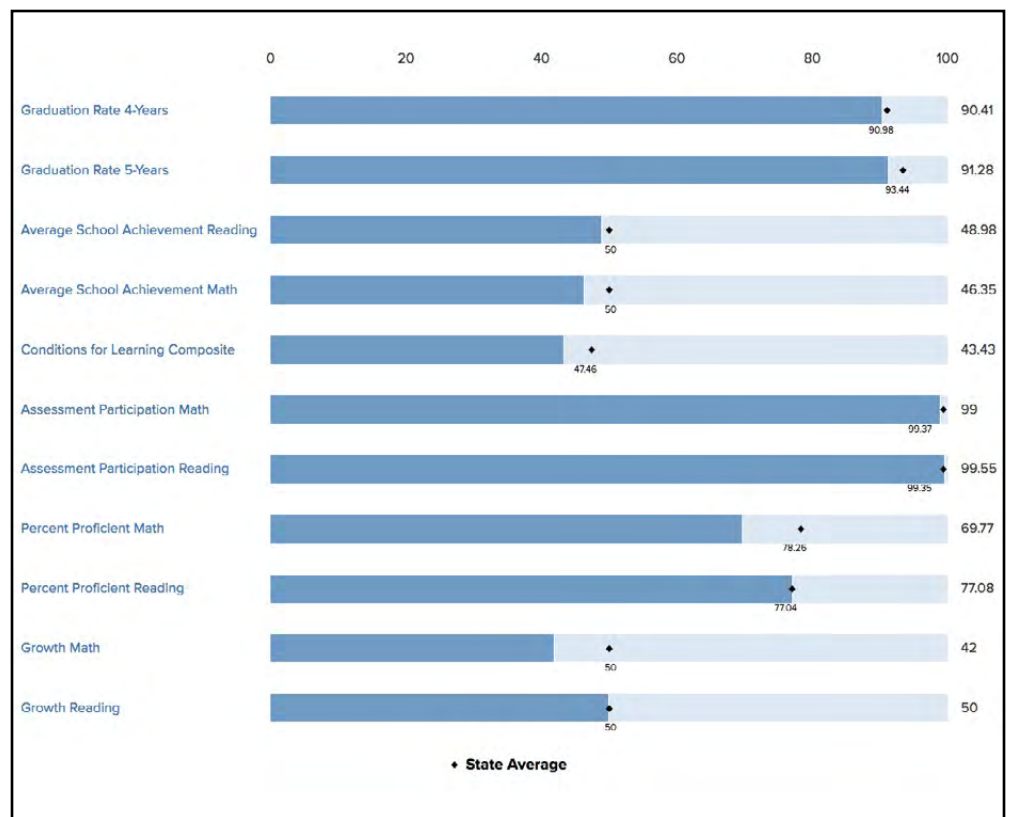
and then are priority weighted. Schools that have an overall performance of 43.95 or less and are funded with federal Title 1 funds are considered in need of 'Comprehensive' support. A subgroup within each school that performs under 43.95 would be considered "Targeted" for state support.

The state has pledged \$6 million in additional funding to help those districts with schools on the "Targeted" or "Comprehensive"

Each school in the district, FMHS, FMMS, and Richardson and Lincoln elementaries all ranked

See REPORT, page 8

Fort Madison Community schools overall performance by area



## Fort Madison member artists awarded prizes at reception



Great turnout for the Member Artist's Annual reception last Friday. Best Photography \$50 stipend went to Heath McPherson of Danville for "Icy Flint Creek". Best 3D \$50 stipend went to metal sculpture by Curt Swarm of Mt. Pleasant for "Whooping Crane in Cat Tails". Best 2D \$50 stipend went to Jim Knapp of Ft. Madison for "Fort Diner". Best of Show \$200 was secured by Barb Zumdom of Ft. Madison for felted "Boots and a Purse". Congratulations to all the regional artists for the quality of competition inspired by this annual FMAAA event..

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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# Current-Lee

## CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON - The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to the Pen City Current.

### Veterans Assembly

The Fort Madison High School Student Government is inviting all area veterans to the school's annual Veterans Assembly being "A Salute to Those Who Sacrifice" held on Dec. 21 beginning at 2 p.m.

### Free Veteran's Haircuts

New Dimensions Salon located at 1736 Avenue G, will be holding it's 3rd annual "Christmas for Veterans" offering free haircuts to all veterans from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22.

### Enchanted Forest

More than 20 area business Christmas Trees will be on display for one more Saturday on Dec. 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with Santa Claus visiting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cookies and hot chocolate packets are available during the viewing.

### Christmas Ornament Workshop

The Fort Madison Public Library will be holding a workshop to creating Christmas ornaments for all ages on Monday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at the library located at 1920 Avenue E, in Fort Madison.

### Super Sled STEM seminar

Learn about speed, friction and inertia with the Lee County Extension office from 1 to 2 p.m. on Dec. 26 at the Fort Madison Public Library in a session called Super Sled.

### VA Informational Breakfast

The Lee County Commission of Veteran's Affairs representative Paul Carroll will be explaining veterans' benefits at breakfast buffet beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 28 at the SunnyBrook, 5225 River Valley Road.

### Senior Health Clinic

The Lee County Health Department will be holding another senior health clinic from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at SunnyBrook, 5225 River Valley Road on Dec. 27. The LCHD also holds TB clinics every Monday (except holidays) at the office at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from 3 to 4 p.m. Readings are at the same time on the following Wednesday.

### Santa's List Escape Room

The Fort Madison Public Library will be holding an Escape Room on Dec. 27 from 1:30 to 7 p.m. Can you find Santa's list and take your name off it or will you be left with a lump of coal.

### Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

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

### 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. The next luncheon will be held January 22, 2019.

### SCC Baseball skills camp

The 2018 Southeastern Blackhawk Baseball Winter Break Skills and Evaluation Camp will be held Dec. 27-28 at Loren Walker Arena with 7-12 year olds from 9 a.m. to noon and 13-18 year olds from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75 for pre-registration and \$85 for registration on camp day. Call 319-208-5047 or email [jschulte@scciowa.edu](mailto:jschulte@scciowa.edu) for more information. SCC Head Coach and former FMHS standout Chris Ramirez are hosting the camp.

### Fort Madison Day at Carver-Hawkeye Arena

Tickets are now on sale for the Iowa vs. Bryant University on Dec. 29, 2018 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the Fort Madison Partners office at 614 9th Street. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth and \$5 if you want to ride a Trailways Bus to the game.

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.



*May your holidays be merry and bright.*

### Harvestville Farm Christmas Season

Nov. 17 - Dec. 23  
Mondays - Saturdays 9am - 5pm  
Sundays 11am - 4pm

### The Pitchfork Café

Mondays - Saturdays 11am - 2pm  
beginning Nov. 26

### Pictures with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10am - 2pm

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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, December 23 through Tuesday, January 1. Our special 2018 Recap editions will publish Wednesday, January 2 through Tuesday, January 8. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

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# Local News/Sports

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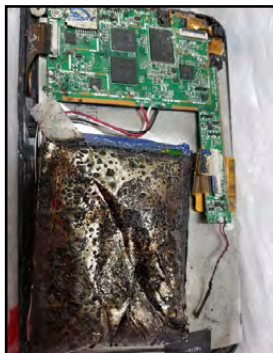


**Great River Regional Waste Authority would like to remind you not to recycle Christmas Wrapping Paper as some of the materials used in the making of it are not recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials in your regular trash cans. Any curbside bins containing these materials can potentially compromise an entire load.**

## Please properly dispose of all Electronics!

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Cruisers donate to school milk fund

Pen City Cruisers Car Club of Ft. Madison recently donated to the Ft. Madison Elementary School Milk Program. It is the mission of the Pen City Cruiser Car Club to give back to the community by donating all funds raised at their local car show. The Pen City Cruisers has approximately 70 members and put on one car show a year. Pictured (left to right) is Tiffany Fullhart, Food Service Director for Ft. Madison Schools, Jerry Krogmeier, Treasurer of Pen City Cruisers, and Kim Krogmeier, President of Pen City Cruisers.

## Pennock, Sokolik get three wins for FMMS

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - FMMS hosted a quadrangular wrestling meet Monday with Keokuk, Washington, and Fairfield. The Little Hounds won 16 matches against four losses.

Aiden Pennock had three pins and Daniel Sokolik also had three wins, two by fall and a win by a 6-4 score. Teague Smith, Tanner Settles, and Brandt Booten all were 2 for 2 with two falls. Landon Rudd was 2-0 with a fall and a decision. Ike Thatcher was 1-0 with a 5-4 overtime win and Taylor High was 1-1 with a fall. Hayden Woolever and Christian Vincent also competed. Aiden Pennock was named wrestler of the meet.



## 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
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
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



**12/19**  
 15 29 31 37 43  
 Powerball: 16  
 Power Play: 2



**12/19**  
 10 12 13 34 52  
 Star Ball: 9  
 All Star Bonus: 2



**12/19 MID-DAY**  
 0 2 8  
**12/19 EVENING**  
 6 2 8



**12/19 MID-DAY**  
 1 2 1 5  
**12/19 EVENING**  
 0 0 8 8

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# Obituaries/Weather

## OBITUARIES

### OSCAR EDWARD DAVIDS

Oscar Edward Davids, 89 of Keokuk, IA went to meet his Lord Wednesday, December 19, 2018.

Born to Marion and Inez Davids November 7, 1929 in Putnam County, MO. He was the 4th child of seven.



DAVIDS

Oscar imagined himself to be a farmer, like his father, but Marion had a different plan for his son and offered to pay for one semester of college to become a teacher.

Oscar found his true calling and attended Northeastern Teachers College (now Truman State) in Kirksville, MO.

He began his teaching career at the seasoned age of eighteen in rural schools around Appanoose County, IA.

Oscar married Nadean (Webber) on September 23, 1951 in Unionville, MO.

He was drafted and served in the US Army Signal Corps 1954 to 1956. When he was drafted his two younger brothers enlisted and they all served together. Oscar's family was musical and he and his brothers performed as a country western trio during their deployment. Because of their talent and popularity with the troops they were reassigned and performed all over Germany during their service years.

Upon his return from service, Oscar re-enrolled in college and completed his Bachelors and Masters in Education.

In 1954, Oscar and Nadean welcomed their first son, Richard Alan Davids.

In 1958 he moved his family to Keokuk, IA and began his career for Keokuk Public Schools as an elementary classroom teacher. After two years he became Principal of Wells Carey School and later became Principal of Lincoln, Washington Central and Hawthorne School as well as rising to become coordinator of elementary education and administrative assistant. He retired in 1992.

In 1961 they were blessed with their second son, Sheldon Craig Davids.

Oscar was a charter member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk. He served as an Elder and Sunday school teacher for forty-nine years. He and Nadean were very active members of this congregation right up until his passing.



Oscar's greatest joys in life were his wife, his two children, his five grandchildren, his six great-grandchildren and serving the Lord.

We will all miss him, but are far better having known him, and will be forever changed by his life.

He is survived by his wife, of sixty-seven years, Nadean (Webber) Davids, his two children, Richard and Babetta (Goeke) Davids and Sheldon and Connie (Brown) Davids, his five grandchildren, Nicholas and Lindsey (Wallace) Davids, Matthew and Samantha (Friedman) Davids, Noelle (Davids) and Matthew Tice, Danielle (Davids) and David Ruelle and Sara Davids, six great-grandchildren, Michael and Alexander Davids (Nick), Hudson Davids (Matt), Landon and Levi Tice (Noelle), Wyatt Oscar Ruelle (Danielle), one brother, Jesse Davids and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Earnest Davids and John Davids, three sisters, Mildred Heminover, Margaret Thomasson and Lois Smith.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m., Wednesday at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk with Pastor Derek Olsen officiating.

Visitation for family and friends will be held prior to the service from 1-3 p.m., Wednesday at the church.

Burial with military rites will be at 11 a.m., Thursday in the Unionville Cemetery in Unionville, MO.

Memorials may be made to New Testament Christian Church.

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

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 21 Dec

Light Snow  
High- 31.8° F | Low - 20.8° F

SAT 22 Dec

Scattered Clouds  
High- 37.9° F | Low - 29.3° F

SUN 23 Dec

Sunny Skies  
High- 35.7° F | Low - 20.3° F

MON 24 Dec

Light Rain  
High- 38.1° F | Low - 37.2° F

TUE 25 Dec

Sunny Skies  
High- 42.2° F | Low - 39.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

## OBITUARIES

### NIKKI LEE TANNER VAUGHAN

Nikki Lee Tanner Vaughan, 49, of Dallas City, IL passed away at December 19, 2018 at her home.

She was born on November 28, 1969 in Fort Madison, IA, the daughter of John and Vicki Ikerd Tanner.

She was a 1988 graduate of the Dallas City High School. She enjoyed shopping listening to music and her Mountain Dew. Her greatest love was her three boys.

Nikki is survived by her father, John Tanner of Niota, IL, mother and step-father, Vicki (James) May of Niota, three sons, Dakota and Dalton Vaughan both of Dallas City and Chase Lomax of Lima, IL, her boyfriend, Jamie Ellifritz of Carthage, IL, and five siblings, Johnna Bradford of Keokuk, IA, Tracey Bryant of Dallas City, Johnnie Tanner of LaHarpe, IL, Travis Fortune of Niota and Libby Meyer of North Liberty, IA.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

A funeral service will be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 22, 2018 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City. Burial will follow in the Harris Cemetery. The family will receive friends from noon until time of service Saturday. A memorial fund has been established for the family.

To sign the guest book or leave a condolence please visit Nikki's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).



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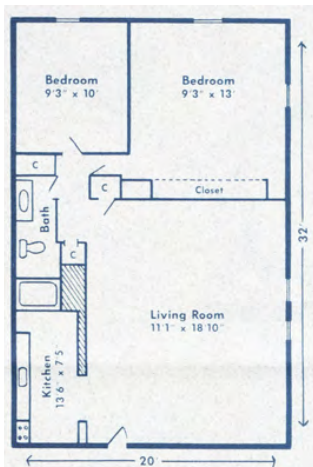
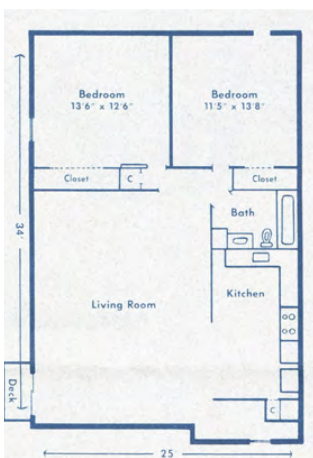
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## From the Front

## School officials not surprised by profile results

REPORT - Continued from Page 1

high enough to not be identified as needing improvement plans per the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, that replaced the No Child Left Behind mandate put in place during the George W. Bush presidency. President Barack Obama, signed ESSA into law in 2015 and the news benchmarks went into effect in 2017.

Kim Harmon, the district's curriculum director, said it's a strong reflection of how the district is performing in educating the students.

"I would say there's nothing in here that comes as a surprise to us. These are all things we are already planning for," Harmon said.

The system is transitioning in to replace the Iowa Schools Report Card. This year they are doing the report card and performance profiles, but

Harmon said the state will move to the performance profiles next year with a different assessment tool in the spring.

"This is a good indication of the hard work the teachers have done and where student learning is in Fort Madison," said Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater. "We use it as a data point, but we also use continuous assessments to see where students are right now. This leads to a dialogue about what are we doing well and what do we need to improve on."

According to the state's performance as a whole, including its 1,302 schools, 34 have been identified as needing 'comprehensive' support and 304 have one or more 'targeted' subgroups. Southeast Iowa schools on the "Comprehensive" list include Burlington's Blackhawk, Sunnyside,

and Grimes Elementary Schools.

On the "Targeted" list, schools in southeast Iowa include Burlington's Edward Stone and Aldo Leopold Middle Schools, Burlington High School and Corse Elementary School; Central Lee Middle School; Danville Elementary School; Davis County Middle School; Fairfield Middle School; Keokuk High School and George Washington Elementary School; Mt. Pleasant Middle School and Van Allen Elementary School; New London Jr./Sr. High School; Pekin Middle School; Lincoln Upper Elementary and Washington Middle School in Washington; and Winfield-Mt. Union Elementary and Jr./Sr. High schools.

West Burlington, WACO, Wapello, Mediapolis and Van Buren joined Fort Madison as area dis-

tricts without any schools on the two support lists.

Harmon said the state has a process for those schools identified as 'targeted' or 'comprehensive' to go through a self assessment.

"We're going to do that anyway. We don't have to... we don't have to create a plan, but we know it's going to be a best practice," Harmon said. "The high school has already taken a team and started that process and we've had great conversations and learned a lot."

Slater agreed saying the school doesn't qualify for the extra layer of support, but it will engage in that process because the district wants to have students learn at high levels and make sure that's being evaluated.

The Iowa School Performance Profiles display scores based on a school's overall performance, as well as the performance of subgroups of students, such as students with disabilities. The measures

are: Student participation on state assessments, academic achievement, student academic growth, graduation rate, progress in achieving English language proficiency, and Conditions for Learning, an indicator of school climate based on student surveys taken by 5th - 12th grade students. Subgroups would be identified as male/female, students on free or reduced lunches, students with disabilities, grouped by race, multi-racial students and English Learners, those who's first language is not English. Fort Madison didn't have the required minimum of 20 respondent in the English Learners therefore that didn't qualify as a subgroup.

Some of the measures are weighted heavier than others. The academic growth including math and reading, which was the profile's focus this year, are weighted at 26.4% of the overall score. To show the emphasis on growth, all the other measures are weighted in

single digits.

"It just reinforces what we know on a daily basis, that we have a very hard working and talented staff that have the best interests of kids in mind each and every day. I think this just reflects that," Harmon said.

Slater sent out an email to all district parents on Wednesday outlining the district's performance on the profiles.

"This performance ranking is a distinction from many other schools in our area, so be proud to be a Bloodhound! We are excited to improve and build on the great things we have going on here at FMCS. Together we can continue to learn, grow, and achieve great things!" Slater wrote parents.

The link to the profiles can be found at <https://www.iaschoolperformance.gov/Home/Index>. Once on the site, type in Fort Madison in the open window and five drop downs can be selected, one for the district as a whole and one for each school.

## FMCH Welcomes Dr. Pauline Agornyo



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