



Pen City Current

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 | 14 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 32

Hawkins Auto catches fire Monday night



Fort Madison fire-fighters battle flames coming through the roof at Hawkins Auto at 16th Street and Avenue E. The fire was reported to LeeComm and dispatched at right around 10 p.m. Monday night. No injuries were reported Monday and no cause was available.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Three apply to fill school board seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Three district residents have submitted their name for an appointment to the Fort Madison School Board.

The board has to appoint someone before Feb. 1 to avoid the cost and formality of a special election, due to the sudden death of former school board vice president Gayla Young on Jan. 1.

At Monday's regular meeting of the school board, FMCS Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said Trisha Hopper, Bradley Menke, and Joshua Wykert have all submitted applications to the district for the appointment.

The district voted Monday to hold a special election next Monday to approve one of the three to the board.

Applications were accepted through 4 p.m. on Monday.

Board President Dr. Tim Wondra said it would be good if all three candidates were present at the Jan. 28 meeting.

"That way they could kind of go through the questions they answered on the application," Wondra said.

After hearing from the three candidates the board would consider a nomination to appoint one of the members and that appointment would take effect immediately. District Secretary Sandy Elmore would administer the oath of office.

The person appointed to the position would hold the director spot until the next regular school election which could be the upcoming next attempt to pass a bond referendum to build a new elementary school. That vote could come as early as this spring.

SLATER

If the referendum goes in front of voters before the next regular school board election, the newly appointed person's seat would be on the ballot, as would the seat currently held by Brian Steffensmeier, who was appointed to fill a vacancy created when former board member Jillian Troxel, moved out of state.

Also, at the meeting, board member Dianne Hope was nominated and approved to take over the vice president's seat. Lois DiPrima was nominated to take over Young's legislative liaison, which is the board member who keeps tabs on legislative issues for the board.

Old Fort Players bring out "Harvey"

Veteran cast returns from Pulitzer winning comedy

In an early rehearsal, Director Shelley Dowling helps her actors smooth out the blocking of a scene in the upcoming Old Fort Players production of "Harvey." Actors from Left to right are: Robbie Phillips, Ty Clute, Jim Posz, and Mark Philp.



BY DOROTHY SCHULTE
For the Old Fort Players

FORT MADISON – "Harvey," the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy was also a hit movie starring Jimmy Stewart in 1950. The stage play by Mary Chase, is the story of a perfect gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best friend, Harvey — a pooka, which is a six and

a half-foot tall, invisible white rabbit. When Elwood begins introducing Harvey around town, his embarrassed sister, Veta Louise, and her daughter, Myrtle Mae, determine to commit Elwood to a sanitarium. A mistake is made, however, and Veta is committed rather than Elwood! Comedy ensues when the mistake is realized and a frantic search begins for

Elwood and the invisible pooka. Will Veta ever understand that she can love her brother and his invisible best friend just as they are?

The cast called for six men, five women and one very tall invisible white rabbit in the title role. After the initial casting of Harvey, the

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

HAROLD E. "SHORTY" HERDRICH

Harold E. "Shorty" Herdrich, 91, of Franklin, Iowa, passed away at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, January 19, 2019, at his home.

Born November 1, 1927, in Franklin, Iowa, the son of Emil and Bessie (Buttroff)

Herdrich. On June 19, 1948, he married Wanda M. Ramsey in Fort Madison, Iowa. She preceded him in death on June 29, 2016.

Survivors include his children: Pamela Taylor of Fort Madison, Linda (Larry) Bolanos of Sioux City, Iowa, Harold "Tony" (Lana) Herdrich of Dallas City, Illinois, Carol Herdrich of Donnellson, Monica (Dale) Stecker of Knoxville, Tennessee, James (Dee) Herdrich of Fort Madison, Cindy (Bob) Howard of Denmark, David (Kris) Herdrich of Omaha, Nebraska and Todd (Nicole) Herdrich of Donnellson; special son-in-law: Tom and Lola Marsh of Farmington; twenty

grandchildren; nineteen great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Emil and Bessie; wife: Wanda; daughter: Debbie Marsh; two grandchildren; siblings: Arlene Haefner, Kenneth Herdrich and Maynard Herdrich.

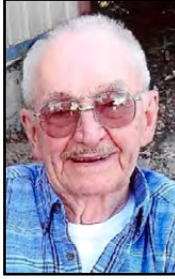
Harold served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He retired from John Deere in Donnellson. He was a member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Franklin and the Farmington Rod and Gun Club. Harold loved fishing, decorating cookies, playing Euchre, drinking Kesslers and especially spending time with family.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, February 9, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 p.m. Saturday, February 9, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Michael Bennett officiating.

Burial will be at the St. Peter's Cemetery rural Franklin, Iowa.

Memorials have been established in his memory for Farmington Rod and Reel Gun Club or St. Peter's United Church of Christ.



HERDRICH



OBITUARIES

EVERETT LEROY BAKER

Everett Leroy Baker, 71, of Montrose died Saturday, January 19, 2019 at Lexington Square in Keokuk.

He was born June 25, 1947 in Beardstown, IL the son of Elbert Earl and Sarah Francis Molbey Baker. On December 3, 1971, he was united in marriage to Nancy Mae Smith in Beardstown, IL. She survives.



BAKER



He is also survived by two daughters, Lisa Hunkeapillar (Bobby) of Montrose and Amy Calhoun of Macomb, one son Ricky Baker of Montrose, seven grandchildren, Alyssa Hunkeapillar, Desiray Hunkeapillar, Aaron Baker, Mason Baker, Halie Abernathy, Katelyn Calhoun and Kendra Calhoun, one great granddaughter, Alexis Hunkeapillar, five brothers, Elbert Baker (Nancy) of Glenwood, IL, David Baker (Carol) of Beardstown, IL, Kevin Todd Baker (Michelle) of Taylor, MO, Michael Baker (Charlene) of Lebanon, MO, and Leon Baker (Debbie) of Cuba, IL, one sister, Judy Griggs (Don) of Hum-

boldt, TN along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, two grandchildren, Katie Hunkeapillar and Justin Abernathy and a sister, Barbara Baker.

Leroy was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served during Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion Post #41 in Keokuk. Leroy had been employed by R&J Decaling in Ft. Madison, IA. Everett enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing and hunting. He loved putting together model cars and making go carts and mini bikes.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Elaine Foley. Burial with military rites will be in the Montrose Cemetery in Montrose, IA.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home with family meeting with from 6-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online messages may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/18/19 - 4:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
01/18/19 - 4:39 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue E.
01/18/19 - 5:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3700 block of Avenue L.
01/19/19 - 2:57 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Christopher Allen Seitz,

41, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for 5th-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
01/19/19 - 1:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue N.
01/20/19 - 3:49 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Mark Leonard Martinez, 25, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 48th Street on a charges of assault while displaying a dangerous weapon and interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
01/20/19 - 11:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Charles Robert Elli Boyle, 25, of Fort Madison in the 900 block of 22nd Street, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on a promise to appear.
01/21/19 - 12:28 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Allen William Penrod, 22, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. He

was released upon citation.
01/21/19 - 1:39 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Justin Robert Bowden, 37, of Montrose at the intersection of Hwy 2 and Hwy. 61 on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
01/21/19 - 5:34 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the in the 5400 block of Avenue O.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/18/19 - 11:47 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Douglas Scott Knittle, 50, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a warrant of violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
01/18/19 - 3:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3400 block of Hwy 218. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Alayna Lynn Adams, 38, of Keokuk, lost control and entered the ditch where it struck a pine tree causing damage to the vehicle and tree. Adams was cited

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com.

The Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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For the Record/Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

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

Children’s Immunization Clinic

The Lee County Health Department will be holding a children’s immunization clinic with free lead testing on Thursday, Jan. 24 at the LCHD’s facility at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from noon until 5:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, those insured by Medicaid/MCO or those with private insurance that doesn’t cover vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Call 319-372-5225 for more information.

Community Blood Drive

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will hold a drive at Lincoln Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. To donate call LeAnn Cashman at 319-372-2896.

Cake Auction

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Boosters will hold a cake auction on Saturday, Jan 26 at breaks during the varsity girls and boys basketball games.

Nerf Wars at FM YMCA

The Fort Madison YMCA will be the site of another round of Nerf Wars on Sunday, Jan. 27. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. boys and girls ages 1 through 6 will compete in Nerf Wars in the gymnasium. Children must bring eye protection, their own Nerf guns, darts/bullets/balls. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information contact program director Noah Dean or visit the YMCA’s Facebook page for more information.

Local artist on display at SCC

Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her “Raptors and Other Birds of Prey” series.

Evening with Chuck Long

Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, Feb. 12 for presentation, including a social hour and dinner with doors opening at 4:30. The social hour and dinner will be from 5 to 6 and Long will speak at 6 p.m. with a question and answer to follow. For more information, contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 or by email at mcmillan@sheaffergolf.com.

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.

For the Record – Continued from Page 2

for failure to maintain control and failure to provide proof of insurance. The vehicle was towed from the scene. 01/18/19 – 4:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested David Wendell Gilbertson, 37, of Burlington, at the Des Moines County Jail on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/18/19 – 5:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Bryan Keith Morehouse, Jr., 33, of Fort Madison at the sheriff’s office on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/18/19 – 8:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jessica Jean Dewitt, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 5200 block of River Valley Rd. on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/19/19 – 12:11 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report a vehicle driven by Erica Lakeishia McQuay, 37, of

Burlington, lost control headed northbound and slid sideways in snow-covered whiteout conditions. Another vehicle driven by Jason Paul Pohlmeyer, 33, of Burlington, couldn’t avoid the vehicle in the conditions and struck McQuay’s vehicle. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. Both vehicles were towed. 01/19/19 – 2:57 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Christopher Allen Seitz, 41, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue G., on a warrant for 5th-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/20/19 – 7:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a report of a three-vehicle accident at 254th Street, where, according to the report, a vehicle driven by Justin Skibbe had collided with two other vehicles and property post on the property of Charleston Board of Trade. Skibbe was taken into custody for OWI and was cited for no proof of insurance. 01/20/19 – 8:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies

arrested Justin James Skibbe, 33, in the 1900 block of 253rd Street on a charge of operating vehicle while intoxicated. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/21/19 – 12:40 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Charles Robert Thomas, 58, of Keokuk, in the 3400 block of 243rd Avenue in Keokuk on charges of 3rd-degree burglary and possession of burglar’s tools. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/21/19 – 12:40 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jimmy George Barragan, 55, of Warsaw, Ill., in the 3400 block of 243rd Avenue in Keokuk on charge of 3rd degree burglary and possession of burglar’s tools. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/21/19 – 6:51 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Chelsea Nacole Smith, 20, of Donnellson, at Siemens on Hwy. 61 on a warrant for contempt of court. *All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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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



1/20 MID-DAY
8 4 3
1/20 EVENING
0 3 6



1/20 MID-DAY
3 6 2 7
1/20 EVENING
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Sports/From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Athletic Department honored 2018 Class 3A State wrestling champion Harlan Steffensmeier with his state plaque on Thursday prior to the Hounds' win over Keokuk. Accepting for Steffensmeier was his mom Margaret Steffensmeier, his sister, and Head Coach Ryan Smith. Steffensmeier is currently wrestling for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Old Fort Players "Harvey" set to run Feb. 15-17, 22-24

OFP - Continued from Page 1

first actor walked off the production citing artistic differences with the director, Shelley Dowling. But a general SOS was sent out to pet stores, local vets and petting zoos. Luckily Easter is late this year, so there were plenty of out-of-work rabbits to choose from. It wasn't long before the role was filled with a more amiable candidate. "Everybody gets along much better with the

new guy even though he's a bit of an exhibitionist," Co-Director, Angela Sanford told us. "He was

apparently once a nude model ... for Beatrix Potter."

Local musician, Jim French, who will play Elwood, is no stranger to the stage, but this is his first leading role. French quickly set the bar high when showed up to the second rehearsal with Act One memorized.

"That's impressive," Director Shelley Dowling was overheard to say. "Can we get everybody to do that?"

OFP veteran actor, the talented Karen Schumaker (Arsenic & Old Lace,

Exit Laughing) is cast as Elwood's sister Veta. Diana Wilson (Bleacher Bums) will play Myrtle Mae, Elwood's long-suffering niece. Jim Posz (Something Special for Christmas & It's A Wonderful Life) plays Dr. Chumley and Dorothy Schulte (Dial M for Murder, If The Shoe Fits) has been cast as his wife, Betty. She will also fill the role of Mrs. Chauvenet, Elwood's aunt. Mark Philp (Opal Is A Diamond, Bleacher Bums) portrays Judge Omar Gaffney.

The employees of Chumley's Rest Sanitarium are played by Robbie Phillips (Bleacher Bums) as Wilson and newcomer Lea Phillips as Nurse Kelly. Jonathon Robbins (Dividing Tree) will portray Dr. Sanderson. Rounding out the cast is OFP Board President, Ty Clute (Barefoot in the Park, Dial M for Murder) who will play the Cab Driver as well as supervise the construction of the set. Xandra Abel will help out as Junior Director with John Jannusch handling Sound & Lights. Cindy Swinderman is return to OFP to once again work her behind-the-scenes magic as Stage Manager.

"Harvey" co-sponsored by Scotts Miracle-Gro, will be presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc. Performances run February 15-17 & 22-24. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and the curtain rises on Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$12, and students are \$8. They are available on the theater website as well as at the door. Pookas get in free.

Old Fort Players has been entertaining the community since 1981 and is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

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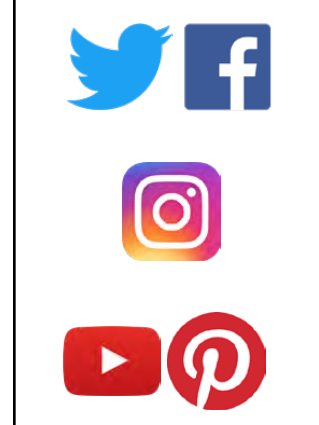
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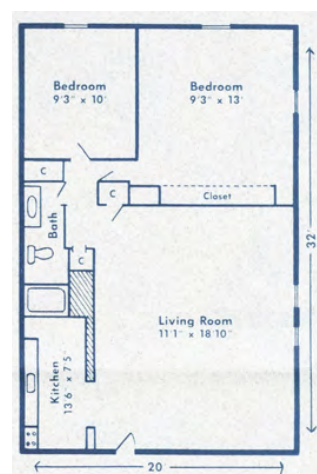
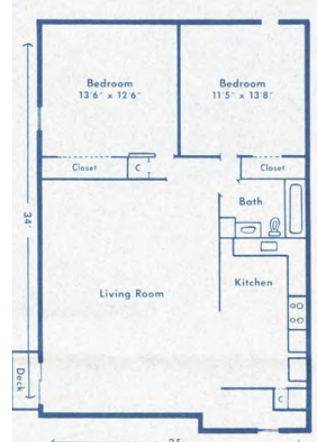


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Local News/Weather


Stecker named FMCH December EOM


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TUE 22 Jan
 Snow
 High— 35.9° F | Low — 30.7° F

WED 23 Jan
 Light Snow
 High— 16.4° F | Low — -5.1° F

THU 24 Jan
 Clear
 High— 27.5° F | Low — 16.7° F

FRI 25 Jan
 Clear
 High— 33.4° F | Low — 0.10° F

SAT 26 Jan
 Clear
 High— 10.6° F | Low — -4.1° F

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Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Pat Stecker as their December Employee of the Month. Stecker works in the Health Information Services Department (HIS). She has been with FMCH for two years. Stecker was chosen with this nomination:

Stecker lives these Standards of Behavior Guest Relations, Respect and Communications. This employee goes above, and beyond on a daily basis to help our patients. She often gets phone calls for other areas and instead of sending the patient in another direction; she gets as much information and tries to track down the answer herself. She also goes the extra mile in her daily responsibilities by making additional phone calls as needed and reaching out on the patient's behalf to help them get what they need. She treats every patient as if they are her family member with genuine compassion.

"Everyone has always been very helpful here at



Courtesy Photo

Pictured above, Jeremy Alexander, FMCH President/CEO poses with Pat Stecker, FMCH December Employee of the Month, Darcy Griffin, Director of HIS, and David Pike, Interim CFO.

FMCH, willing to answer any question and help me to learn. The entire HIS Department are great to work with, in particular my partner Carla is always a great source of knowledge, support and friendship. We work well together," expressed Stecker. "I most enjoy working with our patients. Both on the phone and especially in person.

Getting to know them in a small way and hopefully giving them a bright spot in their day. I have experienced serious health issues in the past myself and know firsthand how much the smallest act of kindness can lift the spirit. To quote a co-worker, whom I have the utmost admiration for, "if you can be anything, be kind."

Stecker enjoys spending

time with her four daughters and their families when not helping patients at FMCH.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above, and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

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