

FMCSD bans 20 seniors from commencement

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -Fort Madison School district officials have suspended approximately 20 seniors after a Sunday night vandalism spree that took place inside the Fort Madison High School.

The suspension is through June 3, which would preclude the students from participating in graduation ceremonies on Saturday, June 2.

Parents of the students involved in what was described as water balloons being thrown inside the building, tp-ing inside the school building and putting Vaseline on the door knobs throughout the school, made presentations to the board.

At Monday night's regular school board meeting, about 60 parents and students showed up for the meeting. Two parents and three students spoke to the issue.

Superintendent Erin Slater said after the meeting that she couldn't confirm or comment on disciplinary action against any students. She also didn't comment on whether the board would reconsider the penalties.

However students outside the meeting afterwards confirmed that 20 students have been suspended and are facing criminal vandalism charges and are currently banned from participating in graduation ceremonies.

Two seniors, McKenna Fehseke and Sierra Howardson, both gave emotional pleas for the board and superintendent to reconsider the penalty of the graduation.

"I'm hear to try to remediate some things that happened this morning," Fehseke said.

"About 20% of the class was told we cannot attend graduation and we are suspended and we are facing criminal charges," she said. "I'm hear to ask that decision be revoked regarding graduation. We all would do what we can, and is necessary, to fix what we've done. Whether that is set up or



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

It was an unusual sight Monday when about 60 parents and students packed the School District office meeting room after approximately 20 seniors were banned from commencement after vandalizing the inside of the Fort Madison High School.

tear down graduation... anything we can do we are willing to do." Fehseke said of all the students have learned in their four years at the FMHS, the biggest lesson probably came Monday when they learned actions have consequences.

See SCHOOL, page 4

Police want help nabbing credit card skimmer BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Local law enforcement is looking for a person of interest in a case that broke over the weekend involving a credit card skimming device placed over an ATM on the city's west side.

On Sunday, Fort Madison Police posted on their Facebook page that they have a person of interest and they are looking for the public's help in identifying the person and locating his whereabouts.

"Working with Connection Bank, we now have a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren, right, radios to other firefighters after responding to a call at Feinberg Scrap Metal Monday around 11 a.m. where residue inside a rail car caught on fire while the car was being cutting open. No hazardous materials were involved in the fire and the blaze was quickly extinguished.

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person of interest. If anyone can identify who this male is please call FMPD at 319-372-2525," the post indicated.

"FMPD is confident that no one's banking information was compromised due to us having the skimmer in our hands. Reviewing video doesn't show the suspect came back at anytime to retrieve information. The skimmer was installed at approximately 0545 at the west end location and removed by FMPD at 1430. However if you still see fraudulent charges on your

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Obituaries/Area News

Pilot Grove Savings Bank gives 25K to Fairfield Arts & Convention center

FAIRFIELD – Pilot Grove Savings Bank donated \$25,000 to the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. Pilot Grove Savings Bank is getting ready to celebrate its fourth anniversary in Fairfield, and the board of directors for the bank approved of this donation as a way of saying thanks to the community in which they do business.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is proud to be a supporter of Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. They have been known to sponsor the yearly artist series and Southeast Iowa Farm Show.

"We are thrilled to have Pilot Grove Savings Bank participate in our 5 for the Future campaign," comments Fairfield's Mayor, Ed Malloy. "Strong community support is the basis for the success of our arts and convention center and local economy. Outstanding cultural amenities like our arts and convention center make Fairfield stand out as a cool place to live and to visit."

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is known as a leading financial institution in Southeast Iowa, and the bank wanted to ensure that the community in which they do business continues to be culturally vibrant.

They made this donation to set up the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center with a portion of the monies needed to meet their goal.

"Pilot Grove Savings Bank is pleased to make this donation to a worthy organization. We encourage others in the community to follow suit and donate if they have not done so already," said Melissa Flowers, Marketing Director of Pilot Grove Savings Bank.

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Brittany Glandon, Melissa Flowers, and Andy Flowers of Pilot Grove Savings Bank present a \$25,000 check to Fairfield's Mayor, Ed Malloy and Rustin Lippincott, of the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.

> Photo by courtesy of Pilot Grove Savings Bank

OBITUARIES

BETTY MAE BERGTHOLD

Betty Mae Bergthold, 94, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 2:40 a.m. on Monday, May 21, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was born on July



24, 1923 in Fort Madison, IA to John Leslie & Echo Jaren Sloan. She married Francis "Frank" Bergthold on September 29, 1942, they later divorced. She worked for the Sheaffer Pen Company, Bergthold Transfer & Storage, Lee County Recorder's Office, and Allied Van Lines. She was a member of Ss. Mary & Joseph Church and enjoyed golfing,

BERGTHOLD

fishing, hunting, camping and traveling.

She traveled extensively in the United States and to ten countries in Europe.

Betty is survived by: 1-daughter: Terry (Philip) Dunlap of Tahlequah, OK; 3-sons: Francis Bergthold of Montrose, IA, Rick Bergthold of Boone, IA & Lanny (Kathy) Bergthold of St. Paul, MN; 8-grandchildren; several great grandchildren; 4-nieces & her beloved Maltese dog, Penny. She was preceded in death by: her parents & 3-brothers: Chester, Maurice & Richard Sloan. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 2018 with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating.

Burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Betty's memory. Online condolences to Betty's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynkcom.

JOE HENSON

Joe Henson, 65, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 2:12 p.m. at his home in Fort Madison. Services are pending at Schmitz - Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, Illinois. www.sbbfuneralhome.com

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OpenWeatherMap

For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report 05/18/18 - 8:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of 2nd Street 05/18/18 - 9:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of 2nd Street. 05/18/18 - 11:18 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue F. 05/18/18 - 4:13 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue N. 05/18/18 - 4:13 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Sheldon S. Robinson, 30, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 24th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of failure to obey traffic control device. He was released upon citation. 05/18/18 - 9:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L. 05/18/18 - 10:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested a 16-year-old female juvenile in the 2500 block of Avenue A, on a charge of serious assault. She was taken into custody and released to a parent. 05/18/18 - 11:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue N. 05/19/18 - 12:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Christine Michelle Pennington, 38, of Hamilton at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue K in Fort Madison on a charge of driving while barred. She was released upon citation. 05/19/18 - 1:13 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H. 05/19/18 - 1:50 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of 30th Street. 05/19/18 - 2:47 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2500 block of Avenue J. 05/19/18 - 10:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue H. 05/20/18 - 5:41 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Cammie Lynn Donaldson, 35, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred. She

was released upon citation. 05/20/18 - 3:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Michael Robert Enger, 21, of Wever, in the 200 block of Avenue E on a charge of Operating While Intoxicated. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/20/18 - 6:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of Avenue L. 05/21/18 - 12:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue G.

Lee County

Sheriff's report 05/19/18 - 8:22 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rion William Donlan, 35, of Burlington at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/19/18 - 10:11 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Lee Manning, 20, of Fort Madison, at the Intersection of Hwy 2 and Bluff Road in Fort Madison, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia,

possession of controlled substance, 2nd and 3rd offense, 4th degree theft greater than \$200, but less than \$500, no insurance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 05/19/18 - 10:27 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gary Lee Manning, 52, of Fort Madison on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was

taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recongizance. 05/19/18 - 12:44 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Vanessa Yvette Patton, 50 of Burlington at the Lee County jail on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 05/20/18 - 1:22 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christian Alexander

Widman, 21, of Wayland, Mo., in Keokuk on a charge of Operating While Intoxicated-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 05/20/18 - 11:58 a.m. - Lee county Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 27 near Hwy. 16. A vehicle driven by

See RECORD, page 8

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







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LEE

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From the Front

Students, parents ask district to reconsider

Richard Fehseke addresses the Fort Madison School Board Monday night on a timer asking the board to reconsider a ban it implemented on 20 seniors who were caught vandalizing the inside of the Fort Madison High School Sunday night.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

"Our small ideas which are meant to be fun and games have real consequences and we did not take that into consideration when we made the decision we did. I think we are all ashamed of what we've done so I ask you please, as a school board, please allow us to get back on the right track and allow us to walk the stage with the other 80% of our class."

Fehseke's father, Richard, said parents will be appealing the district's decision to suspend the students. He asked that the board consider alternative punishments that would send the right message about consequences but at the same time allow the students to participate in graduation ceremonies.

"It's a common practice that seniors do something as a senior class prank and echoing what McKenna has said, fun and games have consequences that impact others. I've talked with people investigating the incident. This involved students going into the school tp'ing, throwing water balloons, and putting Vaseline on the door handles. Concern existed that there may be some permanent damages. Fortunately as the day progressed we found out there wasn't permanent damages," Fehseke said.

"The decision of the school board and superintendent to suspend more than 20 seniors for the rest of their senior year and deny them participating in commencment proceedings is gonna be appealed by a lot of parents." He said the appeal works on procedural and result-based grounds, and the parent groups were going to ask the school board and superintendent to review the punishment in light of the circumstances for other appropriate steps that can be taken that would allow them to participate in commencement.

lowed a childish tradition to TP the FMHS," she said. "While this prank appeared to be harmless, to it lead to members of our student body entering the school and vandalizing the inside of our school and for this I'm deeply sorry."

Howardson said she was pleading on behalf of her fellow students and asked the board for leniency.

"While I will be the first to volunteer and clean up and do community service to pay for my horrible choices, I just ask that you please not take away the beautiful memories my class and I will make on graduation day," she said.

Senior Logan Allen said he was part of the prank and understood the acts caused problems but didn't want his mother to not have the chance to see him go across the stage.

"I was part of the senior class prank, but my mom has not seen one of her kids graduate high school and my mom doesn't deserve to not see a child walk across the stage because of a mistake I made," Allen said.

No decision was made nor were any comments made by the board other than board President Tim Wondra thanking those who spoke for their participation.

In other action, the board:

• heard from Brian Wright, who addressed the board about bruises that his daughter allegedly received at the hands of a school administrator for not saying good morning on the way into school. Wright produced pictures of the student's bruised arm and directed any additional questions on the matter to Curtis Dial, a Keokuk attorney. Wright didn't identify the administrator by name, but asked the board for the administrator's dismissal. approved tentative union agreements with school teamster staffing. approved several policy changes. The changes are part of an ongoing process to bring district codes in line with the Iowa State Board of Education.

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Senior Sierra Howardson was also emotional in her plea to be allowed to graduate.

"The reason I'm standing before you is not a reason I'm proud of. Over the weekend the senior class planned and fol-

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2. The property owner's responsibility will be to remove and dispose of the deteriorated sidewalk or excavate where new sidewalk would go, form the sidewalk to be poured, and place the concrete. This work can be done either by the property owner, renter, or your contractor. The City will not pay for Saturday delivery charges. Work cannot begin before July 1st.

3. The City of Fort Madison will inspect the sidewalk prior to approval of your application, prior to removal and prior to placement of the new sidewalk. The Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co. will bill the City for the concrete used and the City of Fort Madison will pay for the concrete directly to the supplier. The City will not pay for the additional Saturday delivery charge. If the property owner wishes to have the delivery on Saturday the bill for the delivery will be sent to the property owner. No payments will be made directly to the property owner. The concrete can be ordered by the property owner or your contractor from:

Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co. 1204 14th Street Fort Madison. Iowa 52627 319-372-4183

4. The sidewalk shall be constructed according to the sidewalk design specifications which can be acquired at the Fort Madison Public Works Department. 5. Each application will be evaluated based on its condition and how it improves the area for pedestrian traffic. Extra consideration will be given for connection to an

existing sidewalk. 6. Applications for this program will be available on May 1st at 8:00 A.M. and will be accepted through June 22nd at 4:30 P.M. Each proposal will be evaluated and you will be notified by July 2nd. The City will fund projects as funding is available. The replacement work cannot take place before July 1st and must be approved by the City prior to the commencement of the

work.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM WEST POINT, IOWA May 15th, 2018

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at, West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa 52656 on May 15th, 2018. Board Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Members Ted Vonderhaar was present along with Board Member Brian Schmit. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Status of delinquent accounts was discussed and considered by Board Members in detail. Field operations report, as prepared by Utility Superintendent, was discussed by Board Members in detail.

Board Chairman was reported on the following: The next regular Utility System Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 at West Point City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of APril 10th, 2018 was approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for May 2018 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m., May 15th, 2018

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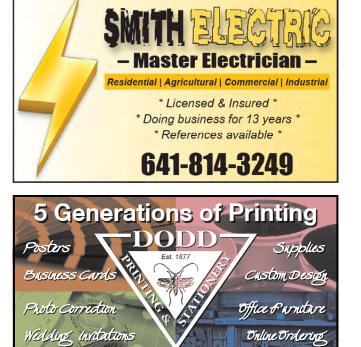
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From the Front/For the Record

Police have lead, photos of suspect

CREDIT CARD - Continued from Page 1

statements please contact your bank and FMPD so we can look into it. Also no one's personal information is comprised due to it not being stored on the card itself."

The statement said the card skimmer was located on the ATM at the bank and encouraged ATM users to tug on the device that reads the card.

"Thankfully, a Fort Madison resident who does this at every ATM or gas pump they used found this one," the statement indicated.

Officials said card skimmers come in many shapes and sizes. Typically they will look identical to the original card reader. They are very discreet.

Card skimmers are used to obtain the information of the card being used. This information can then be transferred to another card that has a magnetic strip and then be used at a store or used online with the card information that was captured.

This is also considered fraud and is being investigated. FMPD strongly recommends that before inserting your card, pull on the card reader itself. If there is any play in the reader then do not use it and notify an employee or local officials.





Fort Madison Police are hoping these images will help residents provide information on the suspect that allegedly has placed the skimming gadget shown at upper left on an ATM machine on the west end of Fort Madison. Police are advising residents to check card swipes by jiggling them before inserting their cards. Officials said because the police department has the item, no personal information was obtained by the criminal responsible

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For the Record

RECORD - Cont'd

Robert White, 38 of St. Louis, left the roadway and entered the right shoulder and slid out of control striking a concrete barrier on the right side of the road and end up on the right shoulder. One person, Jesiree E. Jenkins was reported to have been injured in the accident. No citations were reported. 05/20/18 - 3:40 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Robert Enger, 21, of Wever, at the intersection of 2nd Street and Avenue E, on a charge of operating while intoxicated. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 05/20/18 - 6:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 340th Street. A vehicle driven by Kendra C. Henry, 28 of Roseville lost control on left curve and began to slide and ended up nosed down against a cement culvert. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene. 05/20/18 - 10:39 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Desiree Kristina Stinson, 25, at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, on a warrant for forgery. She was released on bond. Those listed above are to considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Great River Regional Waste Authority now has a new sharps disposal bin at the Fort Madison facility. Making disposal easy for our customers and allowing safer handling for our employees. A similar sharps disposal bin will soon be available at our Keokuk Transfer Station.

The health and safety of our staff and our community members is of the upmost importance and we urge our residents to use regulated containers specifically made for sharps. Empty Sharps containers can be obtained in the at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk facilities.

For the safety of everyone involved, please do not place plastic jugs or bottles containing sharps in your recycling tote or in any non-designated bin at our drop off sites.



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Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report 05/18/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two false alarms, trhee medical and one motor vehicle accident 05/19/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to fou8r medical calls and one lift assist 05/20/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.



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