



# Pen City Current

Monday, June 18, 2018 | 10 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 144



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

For eight weeks in the summer, the Fort Madison City Band puts on a concert series in Central Park that is open to the public. The city band, directed by FMHS band director Tracy Madsen, started up three weeks ago and will have at least five more shows including the FM Rotary annual picnic on Sunday, June 24.



## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



### *Calf's antics causes ruckus on farm*

Blossom doesn't particularly like her small pen. She runs from one end of the small enclosure to the other, kicking up her heels, letting us know that if she had a larger pasture she would put it to good use. Sometime in the future, I may expand her living area, but for now, it will have to do. After all, she is a butcher calf.

One of my insurance clients called. He had read my book and wanted a half-dozen copies to give to friends. How could he get them?

Well, for a half-dozen copies we would deliver! The client lives by Big Hollow Recreation Area north of Burlington. it's a pretty drive, if you take the back-roads, so, after supper Ginny and I jumped in the car and headed in that direction.

I usually drive through the barnyard on the way out to check on the livestock. The chickens were busy scratching away before heading to the hen house for the night. And Blossom was...Blossom! Blossom was out! One of the gates to her pen was hanging lopsided and Blossom was nowhere to be seen!

Panicking, I drove out on the gravel road and scanned the adjacent corn and soybean fields. No Blossom. I pulled back into the main drive and Ginnie shouted, "There she is!" Blossom was standing in the middle of the our aronia bushes seemingly confused as to where she was.

We slowly got out of the car, calling softly. "Here Blossom, good girl", thinking she would come to our out-stretched fingers for a suck. She took off in the opposite direction, kicking up her heels in bold defiance. I shouted to Ginnie, Go get the nipple bucket! She'll come to that!" I stationed myself by the gravel road to keep her off it in case she headed in that direction. There was also the highway to worry about.

Blossom tore through the barnyard, made a circle around her little barn and pen, thoroughly enjoying her new found freedom. Everytime I tried to get closer to here, she ran from me like I was the boogiemanager. (I think she remembered that when I'm in her pen, I carry a switch and spank her when she pesters me.)

See **SWARM**, page 6

## Supervisors to vote on sheriff vehicle computers

### *Computer proposed back in March will get vote Tuesday*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County supervisors have spent more than four months deliberating over the purchase of on-board computers for the Lee County Sheriff's department, but final approval could come as early as Tuesday.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber had tasked deputy

sheriff Will Conlee with investigating and recommending which computers were the best fit for the department.

At Tuesday's regular meeting, supervisors will hold a public hearing on purchasing the computers because the lease agreement is not a current year purchase and will span three years at a cost of \$24,173 for a total of \$72,518. The agreement with Keltek will provide 11 on board computers, printers, cables and docking equipment along with training and service during the lease agreement. The county would also have the option of

See **COMPUTERS**, page 3

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# Obituaries/Weather

## OBITUARIES

### JOHN CHARLES BURGESS

John Charles Burgess, 67 of Keokuk died Friday, June 15, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

He was born January 23, 1951 the son of Elmer and Mildred Thompson Burgess in Keokuk, Iowa. He was united in marriage to Bobette McNitt on April 20, 1979 in Carthage, Illinois. She survives.



BURGESS

He is also survived by three daughters, Mildred Burgess, Jami Young and Michelle Burgess all of Keokuk, one son, John Burgess of Keokuk, nine grandchildren, Corey Burgess, Scottie Calhoun, Taylor Calhoun, Brayden Young, Jonathan Young, Jada Young, Isaiah Burgess, Sierra Burgess, and Danika Wrieden, one great grandson, Kayson Calhoun, brothers and sisters, Dan (Linda) Burgess, Rick (Sue) Burgess, Sally Bennett, Bobby (Wanda) McGee, Kevin McGee, Jesse McGee, Kim (Phil) Korschgen, Annie (Earl) Vermeesch all of Keokuk and Richard Burgess of Kahoka, along with several nieces, nephews and other adopted children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Ellie McGee and Thelma Sherrill, two brothers, Spike Burgess and Elmer Ray Burgess, two nephews, Howard Burgess and Marty Bennett, a niece, Barbara Bennett, and mother and father in law, Doris and Bob McNitt.

John was employed with Trellex Morse in Keokuk as a millman for 15 years until he retired.

He enjoyed going camping and fishing. Most of all he loved spending time with his family especially spoiling his grandchildren.

Funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Burial will be in Hickory Grove Cemetery in Keokuk.

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

Memorials may be made to the family.

On-line condolences may be made to 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 are run as submitted by the funeral homes.

## Computers to save staff and citizen time

**COMPUTERS** - Continued from Page 1

buying the computers at the end of the lease at fair market value.

In March, Conlee had selected the computers the department wanted to acquire after consulting with several other law enforcement divisions in the state. But supervisors at that meeting asked him to put together a bid package and put the package out for other vendors to consider.

The proposals were then put in front of supervisors with a representative from Keltek in the audience. Then supervisors had to schedule a public hearing because the debt wasn't current year debt.

Conlee told the board that the computers are heavy-duty computers and can withstand temperatures as low as -48. Conlee said with the computers tickets would be an issue of a simple scan of a driver's license and registration and the citation would be printed out immediately. The citation or accident report would also go directly into the county computer system which would save staff time entering the records into the system.

In other action, supervisors will:

- consider replacing on clerk in the county recorder's office.
- consider the appointment of Kevin Stuekerjuergen to replace Sam Derr on the Labor/Management committee.

### CURRENT-LEE

#### LHLC picking up produce donations

Live Healthy Lee County will be at the Fort Madison Farmers Market from 5:30-6 p.m. Monday night to pick-up any donated produce for their Produce Box Project. Donations can also be made at the following locations Southview Apartments (Donnellson), Heritage Center (Keokuk), Hillview Village (Fort Madison), Mississippi Terrace (Keokuk), Newberry Center (Fort Madison), Park View Apartments (West Point), and River Terrace (Keokuk). Denmark Star Park also has a community table. For more information contact Emily Biddenstadt at (319)372-5225.

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.

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 18 Jun



Moderate Rain  
High - 90.2° F | Low - 71.4° F

TUE 19 Jun



Heavy Intensity Rain  
High - 80.9° F | Low - 71.5° F

WED 20 Jun



Moderate Rain  
High - 72.4° F | Low - 61.8° F

THU 21 Jun



Heavy Intensity Rain  
High - 68.5° F | Low - 63.3° F

FRI 22 Jun



Heavy Intensity Rain  
High - 75.0° F | Low - 74.1° F

[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)

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Founded in 2016



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Pen City Current and [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com) are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

## Sports/ Classifieds

# Holy Trinity junior high girls drop four of last six

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity Catholic junior high softball team dropped four of its last six games in three doubleheaders.

On June 7, the Crusaders lost to Van Buren 11-1 and 12-9. In game 1, Breanna Peterson had two hits, while Brooke Mueller, Alesha Hellman and Paige Wasielewski each added a hit.

In the second game, a 12-9 loss, Anna Sobczak, Wasielewski, Kayla Box, Mary Hellige and Rachel Menke all had two hits apiece in the loss. Kelli Meierotto and Lora Mehmert each had a hit.

On Monday, HTC took the first game, an 11-10 win over Cardinal, with Meierotto leading the way with two hits. Peterson, Alexa Dingman, Jenna DiPrima, Reagan Holvoet and Natalie Randolph each collected a hit. Menke was the winning pitcher with Hellige coming to button up the game for the save.

In the second game Monday, the Crusaders lost 10-5 with Meierotto again leading at the plate with a couple of hits. Hellige, Mueller, Wasielewski and Sobczak all got on base with a hit.

The Crusaders took on Central Lee on Tuesday losing the first game 10-7 with Mehmert and Sobczak each getting a hit for the HTC. In game two, Sobczak had a couple of hits. Wasielewski, Mehmert and Menke also had hits for Holy Trinity. Hellige got the win.

The Crusaders take on New London on Tuesday at South Park with game 1 beginning at 5:30.

# the classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF FORT MADISON SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM RULES

1. The purpose of this program is to furnish an opportunity for residential property owners to replace existing deteriorated sidewalks and/or to install new sidewalks in front of existing buildings where no sidewalk now exists. This does not include driveway approaches or sidewalks going to the residential unit. It does include sidewalk, which is located within the street right-of-way.

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.  
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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.

### Montrose, IA AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance  
Approve Agenda  
Public Hearing for Approval of Lease for Computers for Sheriff's Vehicles  
Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Lease for Computers for Sheriff's Vehicles Consider Approval of Tuesday, June 12, 2018 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims

Public Input  
Consider Approval to Replace Clerk in Recorder's Office

Consider Approval of Fireworks Display Permit for Glasscock & Brotherton Family

Consider Approval of Appointment of Kevin Stueker-jurgens to Replace Sam Derr on Labor/Management Committee

Consider Approval of Service Agreement with ISAC for HIP AA Program Personnel Action:

A. Change of Position from Records Office to Auditor's Office

B. Step Increase-Sheriff's Office

Commission or Committee Reports  
Adjourn

### PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME

Workshop to follow

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator  
319-372-3705

County Website:  
[www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org)

**Got a news tip?  
Call Chuck  
(319)371.1670**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Lee County, Iowa  
Board of Supervisors  
Regular Meeting  
Agenda  
DATE: TUESDAY,  
June 19, 2018  
MEETING  
CONVENING TIME:  
9:00 A.M.  
LOCATION:  
Correctional Center  
2530 255th Street,**



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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



**6/16**  
6 15 17 19 33  
Star Ball: 5  
All Star Bonus: 3



**6/16**  
9 45 57 58 65  
Powerball: 9  
Power Play: 2



**6/16 MID-DAY**  
0 6 6  
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# the classifieds

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Lee County Health Department is seeking an Iowa Registered Dental Hygienist to work in the agency's dental programs. The RDH will work under a public health supervision agreement with an Iowa licensed dentist. Duties will include providing preventive direct care services as well as education, outreach, and dental care coordination services. Applicants can mail resume to Michele Ross, Program Director to LCHD at PO BOX 1426, Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email to [mross@leecountyhd.org](mailto:mross@leecountyhd.org) as soon as possible. EOE.

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## Scene Around the Area/Opinion



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison golf pro Ryan McMillan gives direction with Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation director Carrie Green as part of the foundation's annual golf outing Friday. McMillan said the foundation outing is the largest of the year with a morning and afternoon tournament to get all the teams in. Eighty teams competed in the all-day outing raising funds for the foundation's efforts.

**First. Fresh. Local.**

# Calf finds freedom on the farm at Empty Nest

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

Ginnie arrived with the nipple bucket. Blossom didn't seem interested in it, but she did try to suckle the fingers of Ginnie's outstretched hand. Slowly, very slowly, Ginnie, who had never herded a cow in her life, was able to lead Blossom back into her pen. I guess females communicate better with females. I lifted the gate-back onto its hinges and we had her.

Now, what to do with the gates? Blossom had knocked the gate off its hinges once before, when she was only three days old. She had stuck her head through the rails looking for the nipple bucket and lifted the gate

clean off its hinges. My son had told me to turn the hinges upside down, but did I listen? Nope.

Something had to be done and done quickly to secure the gates, or Blossom would escape again. We would have to put off our book-delivery excursion for another night. I got some tools and went to work on the hinges while Ginnie kept Blossom occupied with the nipple bucket.

Reversing the hinges went faster than I anticipated. In fifteen minutes I had the hinges reversed on all three gates making them quite secure. We looked around to see what, if any, damage

Blossom had done. Fortunately, she had stayed out of the garden.

We were able to make our book delivery on time. Ginnie is thankful she didn't lose her wedding ring letting Blossom suck her fingers. (I'd already lost mine.) Having gold in her stomach must have made Blossom a lot smarter, by golly. There's a never a dull moment on the Empty Nest Farm.

*Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.*

# EASY SHARPS DISPOSAL

for greater community health & safety



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 utmost 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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Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

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