



Pen City Current

Monday, June 3, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 126



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The 135 seniors representing the Fort Madison High School are introduced at Saturday's commencement exercises.

135 grads told to "Embrace the Mess"

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison High School Principal Greg Smith told Fort Madison's 135 graduating seniors that "life is a messy place. Embrace the mess."

At Saturday's hour-long commencement ceremony at Fort Madison High School, Smith told the graduates, right after they flipped their tassels, they should face the failures that life will surely bring, and keep fighting back.

"Life is a messy place. Embrace the mess, and don't shy away from the hard work that it takes to do the right thing. When it all falls apart – and it will – embrace the failure, stand up, and try again," he said.

The graduation ceremony did not include the naming of any valedictorian and salutatorians, but the seniors elected two class speakers and this year Braxtyn McGhghy and LilliAnna Scott were chosen to address their peers.

McGhghy, the outgoing student body president, also looked to the challenges of the world ahead and said the bonds they've made during their school years should be the basis for their success.

See **GRADUATES**, page 6



FMHS 2019 Senior Vanessa Golowach accepts her diploma Saturday from Fort Madison Community School District President Dr. Tim Wondra at Saturday's commencement.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Trip causes encounter with Pulitzer prize winning author

The last time I was in Jefferson, Iowa, I was six years old and had my tonsils out in the Greene County Hospital. They used ether back then as an anesthetic and it was a horrible experience, so my memory of Jefferson is somewhat clouded and not very pleasant. Sign of the times: My grandson recently had his tonsils out and I told my son not to let the doctors use ether. My son asked, "What's ether, Dad?"

Jefferson is on Hwy 30 in northwest Iowa, between Ames and Carroll. We lived in Bagley, doctored in Jamaica, and the nearest hospital, or the one our doctor used, was in Jefferson.

Fast forward to today, Jefferson, in Greene County, has an outstanding art-appreciation program called "Ring Out for Art," in honor of its 168 ft, 13 story, Mahanay Memorial Carillon Tower. Two of my metal sculptures were selected to be put on display near the tower, and next to the court house. Needless to say, Ginie and I were quite pleased and jumped at the chance to visit Jefferson for an Art Walk. We now have t-shirts that show Big Ben in London, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, and the Mahanay Bell Tower in Jefferson. Pretty cool.

Jefferson has a casino. We stayed overnight in the casino hotel. No we did not gamble. Life is enough of a gamble for us.

One thing I like to do when visiting or passing through a town I'm not familiar with, is to drop in on the local newspaper office and see if I can haggle them into carrying my Empty Nest column. Carroll, near Jefferson, has a well-known, locally owned newspaper, the Carroll Times Herald. I have heard its publisher interviewed on IPR a couple of times. In our day of internet advertising, that has just about crippled small-town newspapers, the Carroll Times Herald remains strong, vibrant and an integral part of Carroll's hustle and bustle. It is just the type of newspaper I like to have my column in. Fortunately, the Carroll Times Herald agreed.

See **SWARM**, page 3

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Obituaries/Sports

OBITUARIES

LUCY E. MILLER

Lucy E. Miller, 96, of Kirksville, MO, formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 1:20 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at The Pines in Kirksville, MO. She was born on April 18, 1923 in St. Paul, IA to John & Christina Becker Moeller. She married Frank R. Miller on November 17, 1951 in West Point, IA. He preceded her in death on March 11, 1984. She was a homemaker, worked for Sheaffer Pen Company and enjoyed doing volunteer work, playing card games, dominos & doing water therapy. She was a member of Ss. Mary & Joseph Church and the Altar & Rosary Society in Fort Madison, IA and Mary Immaculate Church in Kirksville, MO.



MILLER

Lucy is survived by: 2-sons: Gregory Miller of Sacramento, CA & Martin (Beth) Miller of Los Osos, CA; 3-daughters: Khristine (Wayne) Hurley of Kirksville, MO, Gretchen (Matt) Miller-Fordyce of Alta, IA & Jocelyn Miller, husband Dan, of Louisville, CO; 6-grandchildren; 2-great grandchildren; 1-brother in law: Darrell Miller of Fort Madison, IA; 1-sister in law: Carol Hasenclever of Denmark, IA & several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 2-sisters & 3-brothers.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2019 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church. The funeral mass will immediately follow at 10:30 with Rev. Thomas Szydlik officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools or Holy Family Parish. Online condolences to Lucy's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time 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.

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Lady Hounds fall to 1-3 with Wilton loss

Fort Madison can't find plate after first inning lead

BY PCC STAFF

Wilton High School scored the first run of the game Friday against Fort Madison's softball team. Wilton also scored the last run, picking up the 6-1 victory over the Bloodhounds.

Fort Madison opened the game with a three up three down top of the first before a dropped third strike and an error allowed Wilton to take the early 1-0 advantage. Wilton tripled its score with one swing of the bat in the bottom of the third inning, as Chloe Wells hit a home run to center for a 3-0 lead.

Fort Madison started the top of the fourth three up three down, before Wilton plated three more runs. Emily Coss singled with one out and was moved to second on a sacrifice bunt, before a Mallory Lange single brought Coss home for the 4-0 lead. Kortney Drake followed with the third single of the home half of the inning to score Lange for the 5-0 lead.

Ivy Geerdes broke the Hounds' scoreless streak on the top of the fifth inning, taking a 1-0 pitch over the left field fence to trim Wilton's lead to 5-1. Jassmine Bass tried to keep the inning alive with a two-out triple, but a groundout ended the inning the following at-bat.

Errors lured their head once again for Fort Madison in the home-half of the sixth. Lange starting the inning by hitting a ball to short that was mishandled at first. Drake hit into a fielder's choice the following at-bat, moving Lange to second. Wells delivered with a double after, plating Drake for the 6-1 lead.

The Bloodhounds were able to get two runners on in the top of the seventh inning, but left both runners stranded, falling to Wilton 6-1.

Geerdes collected the lone run and RBI for Fort Madison. Bass had the best day at the plate for the Hounds, going 2 for 3. Kylee Cashman, Cassie Powers and Allyson Helmick also recorded hits for Fort Madison.

Powers was saddled with the loss after throwing 102 pitches over the course of six innings. She allowed 10 hits for five earned runs, walking two batters and striking out nine.

Fort Madison's next contest is Monday at home vs. Fairfield and then Tuesday against Burlington at Fort Madison High School with a 5:30 p.m. start time. The Hounds are now 1-3 on the season.



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Business News/Lottery Numbers

Visit to Jefferson has better outcome

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

Carroll is an hour-or-so south of Storm Lake. As you may recall, Storm Lake is rather famous for, amongst other things like the lake, one of its two newspapers, The Storm Lake Times, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2017 (the 100th Anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize) in Journalism for editorial writing. A small-town newspaper winning a Pulitzer Prize is sorta like a VW Bug winning the Indianapolis 500. Art Cullen, its editor, is a firebrand writer reminiscent in style and looks of Mark Twain. Following the prestigious Pulitzer Prize, Art Cullen was badgered by his New York buddies into writing a book, "Storm Lake." Ginnie and I have read it, and it is our belief that Art


Cullen should also receive a Pulitzer Prize for his book. Obviously, I would love to have my column published in The Storm Lake Times. Ginnie and I headed north and dropped in on the newspaper. Art Cullen was not there, but his son, Tom, who did all the leg work for the editorial writing, was. Tom is 26 and quite a friendly chap. His mother, and Art's wife, Dolores (the real brains of the newspaper), dropped in while we were there. I am pleased to announce that the Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper, The Storm Lake Times will be publishing my Empty Nest column. Far out, man. We now have t-shirts with Art Cullen's face on the front

that say, "Art of the Free Press." We love them! So, from having my tonsils removed, to having two of my metal sculptures accepted for display, to having two newspapers accept my column, unlike when I was six years old, our visit to Jefferson this time was quite pleasant. The view of the city, rooftop art, and surrounding countryside from atop the Mahanay Bell Tower is awesome—kind of like an Ethernet of beauty, culture and small-town pride. What a sight. Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Ambassador Club presented a certificate of membership to Great River Plumbing on Friday. Front left is lead estimator Ron VanNiewaal and right is General Manager Ron Walker. The company will now be offering sewer and drain cleaning services in southeast Iowa, western Illinois and northeast Missouri. For more information, call 319-372-8166 in Fort Madison or 319-758-7576 in Burlington.



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June 15, 8:00-11:30am - Keokuk Farmer's Market
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<p>Charles Vandenberg, Editor (319).371.1670 editor@pencitycurrent.com</p> <p>Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager (319).371.4125 sales@pencitycurrent.com</p> <p>Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Pen City Current</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Founded in 2016</p>  <p style="margin: 0;">P.O. Box 366 Fort Madison, IA</p>	<p>Member LION Publishers www.lionpublishers.com</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">  </p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.</p>
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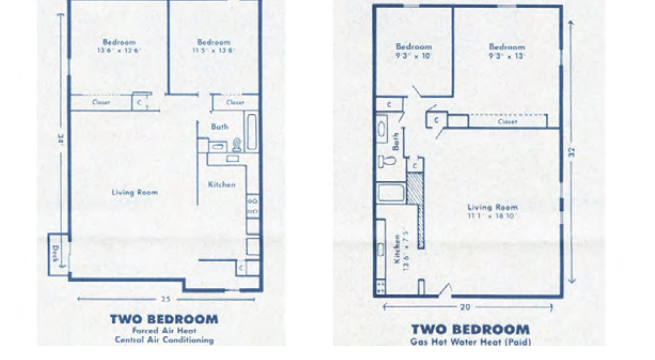
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From the Front/Weather

2019 grads advised to dream, plan for big things

GRADUATES - Continued from Page 1

The FMHS Class of 2019 waits for their adventure to begin as they listen to parting remarks from Senior Class Speaker LilliAnna Scott at Saturday's commencement ceremony at the high school.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



"There is know question that these challenging times are invaluable lessons. However these lessons would not be possible without the relationships we've built and the bonds we've made," McGhghy said.

"Hopefully these bonds will continue on. To the class of 2019 I salute you, I congratulate you, and I thank you. We made it."

Scott, the outgoing Student Body Treasurer, said just because you come from a small town, it shouldn't dictate that you always think that way.

"Everyone here knows

you, where you came from, who you're related to you and you can walk down the hallway and see somebody like Mr. Ehlers ask you, 'Hey, how's your sister doing?' We've all worked hard to get here today and and I'm proud of us. But don't let this be the end," Scott said.

"The message I want to leave you with today is that just because we're small town kids, doesn't mean we have to have small dreams. Dream big. Today is your day and this is the moment you've been chasing. Thanks for the memories Class of '19 and don't forget to dream big."

Superintendent Erin Slater told the students to enjoy their time and celebrate their accomplishments, but don't forget the plan.

"Every journey has a plan. Review your plan often. Know if you're on track. Know if you need to ask for help. Know that everyone in this gymnasium is pulling for you and if called upon we'll be right by your side to help you," Slater said.

"Class of 2019 enjoy this time. It's a time to be excited, a time to feel

proud and let your journey begin."

Smith finalized by telling the graduates that the journey should be full of moments and those moments should also include charity.

"Your formal education has ended, but the lifelong work that you will apply and what you'll learn about yourself is just about to start. This is something I know to be true - while you're chasing your dreams always remember to be thankful. Look at life through the other end of the telescope."

"What I'm saying is go out and do all the ambitious things - travel, get rich, get famous, innovate, lead, fall in love, make and lose a fortune. But as you do all these things, remember to extend a hand to those that need you," Smith said.

The 2019 Senior Class Motto is "Our life is before us, our past is behind us, but our memories are forever with us."

Other class officers included Alyse Schmidt, Class President, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance; Olivia Koechle, Student Body Vice President, and Chloe Blind, Student Body Secretary.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 03 June



Light Rain

High- 73.9° F | Low - 61.2° F

TUE 04 June



Heavy Rain

High- 75.7° F | Low - 72.8° F

WED 05 June



Moderate Rain

High- 84.5° F | Low - 72.3° F

THU 06 June



Heavy Rain

High- 78.5° F | Low - 68.8° F

FRI 07 June



Moderate Rain

High- 75.3° F | Low - 70.5° F

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