SPORTS: Ice is still unsafe at area fishing holes • See page 4

PEN CITY CURRENT It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, December 9, 2022 | 6 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 209

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Meierotto named Assessor



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Newly appointed Lee County Assessor Patti Meierotto (center) talks with West Point Mayor Paul Walker, and Lee County Supervisors Matt Pflug and Ron Fedler.

ASSESSOR: Conference board appoints 28-year office veteran to post

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Conference board unanimously selected Patti Meierotto to succeed Kandie White as the next Lee County Assessor.

Meierotto has been in the assessor's office since 1994 and said this is just the natural progression of her career.

Meierotto and assessor staffer Megan Kirchner were the two names put forward by the county's examining committee out

of their Nov. 29 meeting.

"The examining committee found both candidates to be acceptable for the position but the examining board recommended to the conference board that Patti Meierotto be offered the position," said Lee County Board Chairman Matt Pflug at the conference board meeting Thursday night.

Pflug said the recommendation came with Meierotto's years of experience, interviews, and recommendations.

See ASSESSOR, page 6



Holidays in full swing at FM Library

BY SARAH CLENDINENG FM Public Library Director

Movies to Get You in the Christmas Mood The movies included in this article can be checked out of library on DVD or streamed using Kanopy which is free with

Very Christmassy

your library card.

The Man Who Invented Christmas (DVD, Kanopy) "The story of the magical journey that led to the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and other classic characters from 'A Christmas Carol', forever transforming the holiday season into the celebration we know today."

Getting to the Nutcracker (Kanopy) "Every Christmas 'The Nutcracker' is performed in cities around the world. This documentary explores what it takes to produce this timeless ballet. Witness the passion of young dancers, from auditions to the final, triumphant performance."

The Night They Saved Christmas (Kanopy) "This throwback from the mid-80s features a mother and her three children taking a wondrous journey to the North Pole, where they alone can save Santa Claus and his massive toy factory from destruction." A Big Lego Christmas (Kanopy) "A documentary about the international Lego team's preparations for the biggest LEGO Christmas ever! Head to London for the opening of the world's biggest LEGO store

Subject, officer involved in MP shooting identified

PCC Staff

MT PLEASANT – The individual involved in the December 3, 2022 Officer Involved Shooting in Mt. Pleasant has been identified as Samantha Shumaker, 33.

Officers of the Mt Pleasant Police Department and the Henry County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to reports of a domestic abuse incident where a male reported being held at gunpoint by Shumaker.

During the incident, Shumaker was observed brandishing a handgun in the direction of the male and in the direction of law enforcement. Shumaker refused the officers orders to put the weapon down and subsequently received a gunshot wound to her arm and was immediately provided on-scene first aid.

She was transported to the Henry County Medical Center via ambulance and later transferred to the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.

See SHOOTING, page 2

See BOOKS, page 6

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Obituaries/Scene Around the Area

OBITUARIES

FLOYD W. HAMELTON

Floyd Walter "Butch" Hamelton, Jr., 76, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on December 6, 2022, at his home in Keokuk.



Butch was born on November 13, 1946, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Floyd Walter Hamelton, Sr. and Viva Mae (Miller) Hamelton. He was employed as an orderly at Graham Hospital in Keokuk and later at Sheller-Globe for over thirty years, retiring in 2008. Butch was a quiet man with a deep love of racing. He loved old cars, car shows and the Sportsman's Park racetrack in Keokuk. In his youth he liked to roller-skate, and was the first person in Keokuk to attend Job Corps in Pleasanton, California. He also enjoyed spending time fishing throughout his life.

HAMELTON

Butch proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1969 until 1975 and was honorably discharged.

Butch is survived by three children: Michael (Casey) Hamelton, Jeffrey Hamelton

and Chris (Jason) Arrowood; four siblings: Darlene Burgess of Hannibal, Missouri, James "Jim" (Linda Sue) Hamelton of Keokuk, Vickie Moore of Keokuk and Ricky Hamelton of Keokuk; his granddaughter Sofia Hamelton; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.



Butch is preceded in death by his parents and his brother Terry.

A memorial service with military honors will be held at 1:30 pm on Monday, December 12, 2022, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, Iowa. Visitation will be held on Monday from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home directly before the service.

Memorials may be made to Butch's family in care of Michael Hamelton.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

For the Record

Fort Madison **Police Report**

12/07/22 - 4:55 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H.

12/07/22 – 2:13 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue G.

12/07/22 – 2:26 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue I.

12/07/22 - 5:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2900 block of Avenue L. 12/07/22 – 6:57 p.m. – Fort

Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue L.

12/08/22 - 5:44 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Daytwan J. Ballard, 19, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue E, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Lee County

Sheriff Report

12/07/22 - 5:09 p.m. - Lee

County sheriff deputies ar-

rested Jeffrey Allan Goodwin,

58, of Cherokee, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

12/07/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to forcible entry with police department, three medical calls,

12/08/22 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to five medical calls.





Below front left to right Landon Rudd, Karissa Moeller, Makayla Morrison, Kodi Moeller, Mya Lampe. Back, Sidney Gruntmeir, Cory Jones, Gannon Wells, Makayla Howard, Mr. Noah Altenhofen(Instructor/FFA Advisor), Halie Coulter, Lucas Wenke, Mr. Tom Boeck(Instructor/FFA Advisor and Owen Krogmeier take part in a team-building effort for Central Lee. Above, Wells is pictured performing duties as an auctioneer at the annual service/labor auction auctioning himself off for 8 hours of community service #CTEworksforCL



Officer on leave during investigation

SHOOTING - Continued from Page 1

The officer involved in the shooting has been identified as Deputy Carlos Lopez, Henry County Sheriff's Office. Lopez has 2 years, 8 months of law enforcement experience.

Lopez has cooperated and has been interviewed by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

Lopez will remain on Critical Incident Leave pending the outcome of the investigation. Once the investigation is complete, the findings will be forwarded to the Henry County Attorney's Office for review.

No further information will be released at this time.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Education News

FM High School releases first trimester honor rolls

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison High Schools has announced its first trimester honor roll for the 2022-2023 school year. Pen City Current joins our advertisers and readers in congratulating these students on their academic success. Job well done!

Academic Excellence (Cumulative GPA 4.01+ at the end of Trimester 1) Seniors: Ivy Arnold Carly Fedler Molly Knipe Allison Miller Lauren Otte Jillian Perry Kay Quittem Marquel Warner Xander Wellman Juniors: Lily Arnold Aiden Benda Leif Boeding Jordyn Burch Madelyn Gobble Haley Lampe Henry Morris **Emiliano** Patino Oliver Santiago **Teague Smith Rylee Steffensmeier** Isaac Thacher Sophomores: Lucy Arevalo Danika Dotson Sydney Fraise Ethan Huffman Katie Kline Dacee Marshall Victoria Peters **Emily Ross**

Katelyn Sissel Academic Distinctions (Cumulative GPA 3.75-4.0 at the end of Trimester 1) Seniors: Isabella Boeding Elliott Dostalek Kaden Dunn Supitsara Limsuwan Daniela Matas Gallardo Marie Resseguier Paula Ruiz Zapater Payton Sutcliffe Dalaney Walker Brianna Wright Juniors: Jackson Amandus Alexus Beebe Gracie Blind Colin Campbell Daniel Dalstra Reed Holmes Mazie Hotop Raymond Jaciunde-Sutton Carson Rashid Gabrielle Ruble Naudia Ruston Juniper Strickland Paetyn Wiegand Sophomores: Ava Barnes Gavin Callahan Alyssa Crowther Lillian Gelsthorpe Henry Graham Marley Grizzle Sabrina Jennings Hadley Johnson Jack Johnstun Hailey Kemper Allison Lamb Brylie Lorence Macey Mclees Morgan Miller Zayne Speer Noah Swigart

Ava Taylor **Emily Tran** Brady Wade Freshman: Kathleen Anderson Ladriel Anderson Maleena Bentley Shane Bryant Chloe Crank Caralena Crooks Jonathan Crutchfield Addison Dean Aiden Dostalek Madalyn Emmett Addyson Fowler Conner Fowler-Wolf Holden Fraise Jayce Fullenkamp Kadence Gobble Nolan Guzman Jackson Haessig Jake Haessig Kaylee Herring Markus Holbert Ellie Huebner Mackenzie Huebner Elayna Hutson Gavan Jordan Colie Kester Hanna Kirchner Brooklyn Linder Isaiah Lozano Mason McLey Halle Menke Isabella Patton Tatum Peters Karlyna Plate Kaydynce Plate Logan Pomberg Gabrielle Quick Alyssa Rife Kelli Roberts Addison Rump Avery Rump Ames Schinstock Lily Schuelka

Johnathan Shallcross Gavin Shrum Savannah Sissel Mara Smith Ethan Southward Kayreena Sterling Kevin Tripp Elliana VanNorman Kavden Warner Hadley Wolfe Mia Woodbury Gerald Woodsmall

Academic High Honors (Cumulative GPA 3.5-3.74 at the end of Trimester 1) Seniors: Kencade Fraise Maria Galan Ardila Anna Hantzeas Paige Hathaway Makenna Pixler Piper Schafer Tauren Settles Madison Sherwood **Tanner Stoermer** Breeann Walston Kane Williams Juniors: Nathen Bowen John Cottrell Chailee Cover Eliana Gnann Lauryn Helmick Caden Hutson Aijalynn Jenkins Olivia Kraus Mackenzie Rainwater Benjamin Ramatowski Leila Roberts Abigail Strunk Kaleb Sutcliffe Miah Wellendorf Ellanore Wright Amy Yasenchok

Sophomores: Gavin Blindt Olivia Buckner Nolen Carle Brody Cashman Julian Dear Laci Gathers Serenity Hirte-Kempker Taylor Huffman Isaiah Jenkins Calvin Johnson Mason Koser **Triston Marshall** Haley Mitchell Kassara Muldoon Aaron Warner Gregory Waters Thomas White Freshman: William Biggs Colton Boyer Lillian Buckner Skyler Cale Megan Curtiss Dayonna Davis Hayden Derr Karson Dixon Martin Hornbaker Jason Janic Brook Johnson Justice Lightfoot Brian Kempker Jr. Isabel Krogmeier Austin Nesheim Camden Powers **Taylor Prado** Laila Smith **Olivia Willits**

Academic Honors (Cumulative GPA 3.25-3.49 at the end of Trimester 1)

Seniors: Alivia Akers Mylah Blanchard McKenna Cashman Camille Kruse Macy Lebeck Hope Ridgway **Emily Steffensmeier** Abigail Stockwell Kailey Sutak Juniors: Cade Denning **Conner Fuget** Chloe Haessig Michael Hollister Taylor Johnson Novan Kelly Alexis Leasch Xander Lumsden Ayven Osborn Alexis Whaley Henry Wiseman Sophomores: Klaire Bohnenkamp Caleb Bolander Jayden Clarkin Frank Claire Goldie Jackson Guzman Autumn Hummell James Janic Austin Lantry Alen Mehmedi Sabrina Mehmedi Mia Mesecher Kemee Peterson Tateum Schelich Briahna Sprague Alexa Walz Freshman: Daniel Seager Athena Snook Marlee Weiler

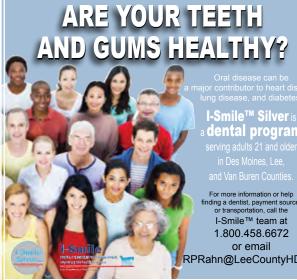


District adds Community Support Specialist

FORT MADISON - Through a collaboration with Four Oaks Family Services, the Fort Madison School District has been able to provide a new resource for students and families starting in the 2022-2023 school year. As the new Community Support Specialist (CSS), Erin Harmon works to bridge the gap between students, families, and the school community through establishing relationships, supplying community resources and referrals, providing ongoing case management for families, and embedding a holistic and restorative mindset within the school community among both teachers and families. The Four Oaks CSS role was originally designed and implemented in 2012 in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Community Schools. Since its inception, this position and model has been replicated at two elementary schools in Cedar Rapids, and it is most recently serving the whole district of Fort Madison. "While I was initially concerned with how I would find resources for families in a rural setting, the response I have received from community partners has

been truly extraordinary," says Harmon about her experience. "Providers and school staff have been incred-

See HARMON, page 6



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Black & White and Read all over

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Sports/Classifieds

Ice is not thick enough at area fishing holes

DES MOINES - The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for southeast Iowa.

Lake Belva Deer

A mix of ice and open water. Ice is not thick enough to walk on. Bluegill - No Report: If you get the boat back out one last time, try out from the south ramp along the old creek channel; use the same lures and techniques as you would ice fishing.

Lake Darling

The lake is frozen over with open water pockets where the geese are keeping it open. Ice is just thick enough to hold geese, not people. Black Crappie - No Report: A thin layer of ice has stopped fishing for a while.

Lost Grove Lake

The lake is iced over for the most part with a thin layer; don't try to walk on it. The forecast rain could deteriorate ice conditions.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319- 694-2430.

Central Park Lake

Most of the lake is skimmed over with ice; geese are keeping one area open.

Coralville Reservoir

Most of the lake has skim ice on it.

Diamond Lake

The lake is mostly skimmed over with ice.

Lake Macbride

Most of the lake has skim ice on it.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Most of the lake has skim ice on it.

Sand Lake

The lake is still ice free. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Rainbow Trout - Fair.



Wapsipinicon River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction) Most of the river is locked up. A few people are venturing on the ice in the backwaters, but the ice should be considered unsafe.

Most bodies of water are partially to mostly covered in skim ice. There is no safe ice in the Macbride District. For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Lake Miami

Little fishing pressure lately. Water temperatures are in the 30s. Skim ice is forming on the colder mornings. Lake Sugema

Fishing pressure has been light. Water temperatures are in the 30s. Skim ice is forming on the colder mornings, making fishing from shore difficult.

Lake Wapello

Water temperatures are in the 30s. Skim ice is forming on the colder mornings.

Ottumwa Park Pond South (Trout Pond)

Skim ice is forming; fishing from shore will be difficult. Trout were stocked recently. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Rainbow Trout - Fair: Try small in-line spinners or small jigs. The current lake level is 903.46 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Water temperatures are around 40 degrees. Skim ice is forming in the coves, making fishing difficult. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. Walleye - No Report: Effective January 1, 2023 there will be a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye. All walleyes measuring less than 15 inches must be immediately released unharmed. This regulation does not apply to the Chariton River below Rathbun dam; the upper limit of the regulation will be the Wayne/Appanoose county line.

Red Haw Lake

Red Haw State Park has partially reopened. Visitors can access the beach and north boat ramp area, but are asked to avoid the campground.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 1.39 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and has been falling slightly the past few days. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. Unsafe ice conditions. Sauger - No Report: Look for saugers below the Lock and Dam. Try vertical jigging with minnows or trolling threeway rigs with minnows. Walleye - No Report: Look for walleyes below the Lock and Dam. Try vertical jigging with minnows or trolling three-way rigs with minnows. Some walleyes can also be caught on the wing-dams.

Tailwater stages have been falling the past few days. Main channel water temperature is around 35 degrees. Backwaters have frozen over with skim ice. Unsafe ice conditions. Reports of walleyes and saugers being caught at New Boston and Muscatine. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.





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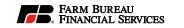
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From the Front

Assessor says property values will go up

ASSESSOR - Continued from Page 1

Meierotto said she started as a real estate clerk and acquired additional education and has been promoted under three different assessors.

"This is just the next step in my career," she said. Meierotto will take office the first week of January and said she's kinda jumping into a fire.

She said there's information out about an upcoming large increase to property tax assessments.

"We just need to educate people," she said. "Just because those go up doesn't necessarily mean that your taxes will go up," she said.

"But we're all feeling it at home. Prices are going up and taxes may have to go up, too."

She said the staff will be down to four when current assessor White retires at year's end. She said they will be advertising for a position soon.

Meierotto said she'd also like to look at technology upgrades for the office to take advantage of new software.

Harmon joins staff as specialist

HARMON - Continued from Page 3

ible in helping me create a network of support while gathering information on the resources available. My favorite part so far has been building relationships with the families and connecting them with supports they didn't even know existed. Though often hard to find, the resources are out there, and I am so honored to play a small role in helping people access them."

Keeping in line with Four Oaks' Total Child and Trauma-Informed philosophies, Harmon uses a variety of strategies, such as Community-Building Circles, to help build relationships both with families and in the classrooms. These questions range from asking about who you look up to, and who makes you laugh, to thinking about things you like to do or who takes your mind off of stressful topics. Harmon also follows practical strategies for healthy vulnerability. This includes daily check-ins and rating how you felt each day. By

Your Holiday Helpers



Get Christmassy at the FM library

BOOKS - Continued from Page 1

and visit the famous LEGO headquarters in Denmark." Jingle Bell Rocks!: The Underground World of Alternative Christmas Music (Kanopy) "A trippy, cinematic sleigh ride into the strange and sublime universe of alternative and underground Xmas music, featuring The Flaming Lips, Run-DMC, The Free Design, Low, Miles Davis and Bob Dorough, Clarence Carter, John Waters, and many more."

Christmas with the Kranks (DVD) "When their only child, Blair, leaves the family nest, Luther and Nora decide to book a cruise and skip Christmas altogether. When Blair calls on Christmas Eve to announce a surprise visit with her new fiancée, the Kranks have just twelve hours to perform a miracle and pull themselves and their neighbors together to throw the best celebration ever."

Tangentially Christmassy

Miracle of Morgan's Creek (Kanopy) "A small-town girl goes overboard with war-time patriotic zeal and marries a soldier she's only met once. He disappears after one night, and she discovers she's pregnant... but she just can't remember her husband's name."

You've Got Mail (DVD) "A superstore book chain tycoon and a cozy children's bookshop owner are anonymous e-mail cyberpals who fall head-over-laptops in love, unaware that they are combative business rivals."

Die Hard (DVD) "A New York detective visiting his estranged wife in L.A. at Christmas is the only hope when terrorists seize a Los Angeles high-rise and take hostages."

Edward Scissorhands (DVD) "Once upon a time in a castle high on a hill lived an inventor whose greatest creation was named Edward. The inventor's sudden death left Edward unfinished, with sharp shears of metal for hands. Edward living alone in the darkness until one day a kind Avon lady took him home to live with her family."

While You Were Sleeping (DVD) "A Chicago commuter train ticket collecting romantic pretends to be engaged to a man who hits his head on the tracks and falls into a coma but can't fool his brother."

Community Calendar

We have begun adding community events to the online library calendar at <u>https://fortmadison.librarycal-</u><u>endar.com</u>. Events are added to the calendar as they are submitted by community organizations using the form found here <u>https://tinyurl.com/547jam3h</u>. Does your group have an upcoming community event? Let us know by submitting it through the form. Most community events open to the public are eligible for inclusion in the community calendar.

Cozy Reading Challenge Winter Reading Program We will be having an adult winter reading program beginning in January for anyone ages 14 and older. The goal of the cozy theme is to use reading and activities to help battle the winter blues and blahs while winning prizes. Registration will begin January 2 with more details to come near the end of December.

Books to help get in the spirit of the season: The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan (F COL) Angels at the Table by Debbie Macomber (F MAC) An Irish Country Christmas by Patrick Taylor (F/ PB TAY)

The Santa Suit by Mary Kay Andrews (F AND) Royal Holiday by Jasmine Guillory (F GUI) Evergreen Tidings from the Baumgartners by Gretchen Anthony (F ANT)

A Quilt for Christmas by Melody Carlson (F CAR) An Almost Perfect Christmas by Nina Stibbe (394.2663 STI)

The Man Who Invented Christmas by Les Standiford (823.8 STA)

The Dreaded Feast: Writers on enduring the Holidays edited by Michele Clarke and Taylor Plimpton (394.26 DRE)

Upcoming Events at the Fort Madison Public Library –

Library Closings in December – The library will be closed Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday. The library will be closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year Holiday.

Pre-School/Toddler Story Hour –Wednesday morning at 10:30.

Hang Teen – Tuesday, 3:30-5:00 for ages 12-19. Minecraft –3:30-5:00, all ages on Mondays.

Once Upon a Wednesday –Join us from 1:30-2:30 for a variety of adventures. December 7 will be a Christmas food craft. December 14 will be a decorative box craft.

Thursday Crafternoon – Thursday, 3:30-5:00, for ages 14-adult. This program is an opportunity to spend some time working on an in-depth project for the whole month.

Christmas Ornament Workshop - Friday, December 23 from 10am to noon. Stop in and enjoy some Christmas goodies while making some new ornaments for your Christmas tree.

All Booked Up! - The library's book discussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. On Thursday, January 5, we will be discussing "Cozy" by Isabel Gillies. On February 2, we will be discussing "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee

Cook the Book –December 13, at 6:00 pm, we will be sharing recipes selected from "Better Homes and Gardens: Christmas Cooking from the Heart". January 10 will feature, "The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook".



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