PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | 6 pages | Volume 9 • Issue 59









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City gets fire station update



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Firefighter John Lang and Lt. Chad Hannum brief the Fort Madison City Council on the city's new fire station. Bids could be let in September with work possibly starting in November.

\$7.8M ESTIMATE: Schedule shows work could be completed in 2027

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council got an update on the progress of the new Fort Madison Fire Station.

The new station is scheduled to be completed in 2027 with work potentially starting in November of this year.

The new 18,500 square foot building is carrying a construction estimate of \$7.8 million. The building was originally planned as a 26,000 square foot facility to ac-

commodate some ambulances and EMS equipment, but that project was scaled back when the Lee County EMS ambulance bay became reality on the city's west side.

"This is really something the city could be proud of," said firefighter John Lang.

"The new station is 18,512 square feet and is designed to maximize efficiency and minimize unnecessary costs. This reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility, firefighter health, and operational efficiency."

See **STATION**, page 4

STATE NEWS

IHSAA to move boys' state hoops tourney to Hilton Coliseum

BOONE, Iowa – A century after playing championships inside State Gym, the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Iowa State University (ISU) enter an exciting new era together as the IHSAA State Basketball Tournament will move to James H. Hilton Coliseum starting in 2027.

An initial five-year agreement with sup-

port from Discover Ames will place the five-day, 32-team boys' tournament inside Hilton Coliseum as the first-of-its-kind multi-use CyTown district is developed at the Iowa State Center and slated to come online in 2027.

"We couldn't be more excited about what this opportunity will offer our student-athletes, schools, and supporters as they experience an elite basketball environment at Hilton and an awesome new tournament community in CyTown and Ames," IHSAA executive director Tom Keating said. "Our sincere appreciation goes to everyone who has helped make this possible at Iowa State University,

See **IHSAA**, page 4

Lorence has state's top shotput mark

SPORTS: Senior has her sights set on winning 3A state title, Drake

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison senior Brylie Lorence made a commitment after not reaching her goals at Drake and the IGHSAU State track meet last year.

That commitment, and a few technical changes, have launched her on a trajectory that could result in the ultimate prize – a state title.

Lorence has started the indoor season as the top hurler in the state in girls' 3A shotput.

Her throw of 44'-10.75" gave her the top distance in the state and the 23rd best shot in the country.

The Lady Hound said she was disappointed with her finish last year and vowed a change in her final season with Fort Madison.

"I was disappointed with my performance at the State meet last year and worked in the offseason to ensure I would do better this year," she said Tuesday.

"Underperforming at the biggest meet of my career served as one of the major motivators for me this season."

The offseason involved changing some techniques that allowed her to rotate in the circle rather than glide to the barrier. She fine-tuned that change during lessons and camps, some time with other coaches and Indian Hills' throwing camps during the summer and winter.

Lorence said the switch to rotating into the throw allowed her to utilize her power more. There's also been more time in the weight room and more focus with Athletic Enhancement Director Derek Doherty's lifting program.

The strength conditioning is a big part of her performance early on, including the top throw in the state to date.

See **LORENCE**, page 6

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PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/17	0134
PICK 4 EVENING 03/17	3669
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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LINDA K. SCHULZ

Linda K. Schulz, 75, of Coralville and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 2:30 AM at Grand Living at Bridgewater Assisted Living in Coralville.



She was born on October 3, 1949 in Fergus Falls, MN to Harold and Dorothy (Skalicky) Cary. On August 8, 1970 she married Gerald R. Schulz; he passed away on March 8, 1999. Linda was a science teacher at St. Mary's Academy and Marquette Catholic Schools, she retired in 2002. Linda was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. She enjoyed gardening and creating greeting cards. Linda loved going antiquing and to

flea markets to find many treasures. Most of all Linda enjoyed spending time with her family and her dear friends, Ray and Carleen Krogmeier.

Survivors include two daughters, Emily Schulz of Iowa City and Elizabeth (Chris Gerlach) Schulz of North Liberty; a granddaughter, Dorothy Gerlach; one sister, Virginia (Dave) Creekmur of Ashville, NC; two brothers, Harold (Carol) Cary of Mason City and Roger Cary of Red Banks, Miss; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband; two brothers in law, Richard and John Schulz; two sisters in law, Ruth Cary and Peggy Schulz and two nieces, Kim Schulz and Diane DeVries.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will meet with friends from 10-11 AM on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The memorial service will follow at 11 AM at the funeral home with Pastor Dave Poland officiating. Burial will follow in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Sierra Club, World Wildlife Federation, or the Arbor Day Foundation and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



Lunch Specials March 17-21 11am ~ 1pm

Monday, March 17th Corned Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes & Carrots

Tuesday, March 18th

Carved Turkey, Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, March 19th

Burnt Ends Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Thursday, March 20th Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 21st Fish & Shrimp Dinners

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL E. **BOYER**

Michael Edward Boyer, 76, of Adrian, Illinois, passed away at 9:28 a.m. Friday, March 14, 2025 at his home.

He was born on May 30, 1948, in La Harpe, Illinois, the son of Leon and Geneva (Henson) Boyer.



BOYER

Survivors include his fiancé: Debby Vass; two daughters: Adelle Todd and Tonya Smith; six sons: Todd Boyer, Willie Boyer, Travis Boyer, Daryl Boyer, Jason Kinman, and Joshua Kinman; twenty-nine grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren; two sisters: Debbie Kelley and Carla Pezley; four brothers: Jack Boyer, Don Boyer, Bob Boyer, and Jeff Boyer

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one son: Tony

Boyer.

Mike was of the Christian Faith, he attended Nauvoo-Colusa High School. He was a musician, heavy equipment operator, and carpenter. He was a member of several bands throughout the area including: MT & Company, Common Bond, Ozone Ramblers, and Willie James Band. He enjoyed fishing, mushroom hunting, riding horses, playing music, and being with his family and friends.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home for cremation.

A visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 noon, Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www. sbbfuneralhome.com.

Chamber declares Wed. Random Kindness day

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is declaring March 19th (3-19) Random Acts of Kindness Day in the (319). We challenge all of you to be kind to one another on 3-19. Here are some things you can do!

- Do something special for your customers like putting out candy or cookies for anyone that comes in.
- If you have a favorite store or restaurant, tell people about it on Facebook.
- Maybe you have a colleague that is having a rough time, grab them a cup of coffee on your way to work.
- Send flowers to someone special in your life.
- Pay for the meal of the person behind you in the drive thru.
- Smile, wave and say hello to everyone you meet on the street.

Invite others who live within the (319) area code to join you in being kind, not only on this day, but every day!



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PEN CITY CU

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ELAINE A. PETERSON

Elaine Ann Peterson, 93 years, of Fort Madison, died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, March 17, 2025, after a brief illness. Elaine was born Nov. 8, 1931, in Chicago, the daughter of John and Leocadia "Kate" (Bortke)



PETERSON

Jahner. She married the love of her life, Franklin Peterson, on Oct. 2, 1954, at St. Augustine Catholic Church in South St. Paul, Minnesota. They had six children: Dave, Dick, Roberta, Don, Jane, and Judy.

Elaine was a homemaker and devout Catholic. In her early years, she worked at Swift and Company in South St. Paul, Minnesota. In the 1960s, Elaine and Frank were owners of the Diamond Cab Company, South St. Paul, where she also worked

as a dispatcher. In 1973, they moved their family to Donnellson, Iowa. In 1988, their family moved to Fort Madison. She was an active member of the Holy Family Parish, where she sang in the choir. Family, especially her grandchildren and her faith were most important to her.

She is survived by her children: Dick (Patricia) Peterson of San Antonio, Texas; Roberta Danielson of Fairfield, Iowa; Don "Pete" Peterson of Fort Madison; Jane (Tom) Finn of Batavia, New York; and Judy (Greg) Stuecker of West Point, Iowa; daughter-in-law, Peggy Peterson of White Bear Lake, Minnesota; 13 grandchildren: Matt (Kelly), Kevin (Andi), John (Jessica), Michael, Lisa, Catie (Bryan), Ellen (Sam), Adam, Brian (Tori), John, Michael, Mari (Paul), and Sara (Jamie); great grandchildren: Ava, Aiden, Lucy, Ruth, Nolan, Anthony, Allison, Gideon, Penelope "Poppy" and one on the way; Austrian Family: Eva, Romy, Richie (Klaudija) Kaufmann and their daughter, Emilia. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 65 years, three siblings: Therese Murray, Alma Benjamin and Bill Jahner, one son, David Peterson, one daughter-in-law Lauretta "Ret" Lay; one son-in-law Doug Danielson and a Foreign Exchange Student from Austria, Josef "Sepp"

A rosary will be recited at 4:00 pm Friday, March 21, 2025 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison with visitation to follow till 6:00 pm Friday evening at the chapel. Mass of Christian Burial will be begin at 10:30 am Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison with Reverend Gary Beckman as Celebrant. Burial will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for the Holy Family Parish and Maryknoll (mission work), contributions may be made at the church or the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Peterson family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy
Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting

OBITUARIES

JEAN R. LAWSON

Jean Rowlett Lawson, 74 of Keokuk passed away Sunday, March 16, 2025 at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose.

She was born May 8, 1950 the daughter of Levi Stewart and Ethel Marie Beghtol



LAWSON

She was a member of First Christian Church and Amazing Grace

Jean had a passion for baking and cooking, loved hunting for great deals while shopping, and enjoyed watching shows like American Pickers, Storage Wars, COPS, and Expedition Unknown. One of her greatest joys was walking in the rain.

She is survived by three sons, Jeff McClain, James McClain and Danny McClain, nine grandchildren and several great grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister Mary Harvey and a niece and nephew, Bill Rowlett and Missy Kensett.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a son, Russell "Rusty" McClain, six brothers, Teddy, Richard, Roy, Melvin, Levi and Lewis, a half-brother, Earl Mason and a sister, Mildred.

A graveside service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

ROLAND D. BATTEN

Roland D. Batten, 90, of the Keosaugua Health Center, formerly of Croton, Iowa, and Chicago, Illinois, passed away at 5:30 a.m. Monday, March 7, 2025 at the Keosauqua Health Center.



BATTEN

Born November 12, 1934 in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Harry S. and Irma (Ferguson) Batten.

Survivors include two brothers: Bill (June) Batten of Croton, Iowa and Bob (Sandy) Batten of Mount Pleasant, Iowa; sister Audrey Willits of Croton, Iowa; nephews: Scott Batten, Eric Batten, William Batten, Robert Willits, David Willits, Nathan Batten, and Aaron Batten; and nieces: Jennifer Wells and Sherri Rider.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Chris Batten; and nephews Zachary Batten, and Johnathan Batten.

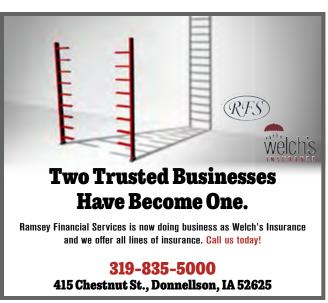
Roland was the manager of Union Station in Chicago. He attended many theatre performances throughout the years. He was an avid Chicago Cubs baseball fan. Roland loved spending time with his family.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cre-

A private family burial will be held at a later date in the Croton Cemetery. Memorials have been established in his memory and can be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes. com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.







From the Front

Tourney moves for 1st time since '63

IHSAA- Continued from Page 1

Discover Ames and Cyclone Athletics."

Lauded as one of the nation's finest college basketball venues, Hilton Coliseum boasts consistently strong attendance for the Cyclones' men's and women's basketball programs with a capacity of 14,267, and the programs annually rank among the national leaders in home attendance.

ISU will make facilities at Hilton and the attached and updated Scheman Building available for the IHSAA event. Opened in 1971, ISU Athletics installed a new state-of-theart video board, LED ribbon boards and an audio system ahead of the 2024-25 season, and has also completed upgrades to its team locker rooms within the facility. The Scheman Building is in the midst of a significant renovation which has created new hospitality spaces for Cyclone contests as well as other special events that the facility attracts.

The surrounding CyTown district – announced in 2022 and expected to be up and running in 2027 – will feature space for retail, food and beverage, common areas, and a 200-room Marriott hotel, The Cardinal.

"On behalf of Iowa State University, thank you to the IHSAA board, Tom Keating, and Tom's staff for deciding to bring the Athletic Association's state basketball tournament to Ames to experience Hilton Magic," Iowa State Director of Athletics Jamie Pollard said. "We are excited to host this great event and our staff looks forward to working with the IHSAA to make this special for the athletes, coaches and fans whose teams reach the state tournament each year."

"This is a major win for Iowa State University and our communities' hotels and restaurants," he added. "It is a

great example of the new economic opportunities that Cy-Town can bring to the Ames community. This will be the first of many such opportunities our community will have in future years, because of Iowa State University's investment in CyTown."

IHSAA basketball brings eight qualifiers across four classifications to the state tournament. Since moving to a five-day format in 2018, the event has averaged nearly 50,000 paid attendees with full capacity available.

Ames already hosts over 100,000 youth sports visitors annually through the Iowa Games, Special Olympics of Iowa's Summer Games, and more.

"We are super excited to partner with Iowa State Athletics and the IHSAA to bring the State Basketball Tournament to Ames and Hilton Coliseum starting in 2027," said Discover Ames President and CEO Kevin Bourke. "This weeklong event will expose teams and fans from across the state to Iowa State University, as well as create a huge economic impact to Ames while showcasing our wonderful community."

Ames played host to the IHSAA's basketball tournament six times between 1917 and 1926, all inside then-Iowa State College's State Gym. The most recent edition featured a small-school round robin, with Irwin topping Keystone, Grandview, and Lake View for the 1926 Class B title.

The IHSAA concluded its 2025 championships on Friday at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, where the tournament has been hosted since 1963.

"We have great relationships in Des Moines and at Iowa Events Center, and we thank them for all their years of support and their continued work in hosting our events," Keating said.

2025 Save The Date MAY 2 SHEAFFER MEMORIAL **GOLF PARK** 2025 1760 308th Ave. Fort Madison, IA 52627 Website: https://unitedwaygrr.org/ Phone Number: 319-524-4504 Email: director@unitedwaygrr.org

Fire station bids to go out in fall

STATION- Continued from Page 1

Incoming fire chief Chad Hannum said the station design was reduced as much as possible to minimize the financial burden, while still meeting both current and future needs and ensures a functional, safe, and well-designed facility for the long term.

Lang, who Hannum said has been part of the new fire station design for the past five years, said the existing fire station has critical space limitations, health and safety concerns, and operational inefficiencies.

"The new facility will provide adequate space for modern firefighting equipment and personnel and it will address health and safety concerns including decon (decontamination) areas and improved air quality," he said.

"It will also improve our operational readiness ensuring a faster and more effective response to emergencies. Investing in this project means better service, better working conditions, and improved public safety."

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said he's seen all the working concepts of the building and said the most recent plans are the best he's seen.

"Being conscientious of the taxpayers' money and the efficiency of the building, as they skinned it down and kept going back to the drawing board, in my opinion, this is the nicest layout," he said.

"I thought the first one didn't flow at all and this one really flows nicely."

Hannum said the new building will also enhance training with a training tower that will double as a hose tower, as well as confined space tubes. He said the department regularly gets calls from industry for confined space work.

The new facility will also have five bays to hold the department's equipment, including the rescue boat and pickup truck. Lang said that will help the department respond even quicker to river rescues because they won't have to carry equipment out to the boat outside. He said that will also help reduce wear and tear on the boat. The facility will have living and kitchen quarters, a weight room, overnight rooms, decontamination areas, and administrative and meeting areas.

The tower will allow Fort Madison to continue to train for high angle and low angle rope rescues.

"All 16 of us are trained in the aspect. That tower will give us the ability to train year-round. We can do it inside even when we have inclement weather. That's a critical skill that if you don't use it, you lose it."

Hannum said they have scoured agencies for grants to help offset the costs, but said there aren't a lot of other resources out there. City Manager Laura Legios said the city has spoken with Congresswoman Marianette Miller-Meeks' staff about possible funding through appropriation.

The city is hoping to bid the project in September and break ground in November.



PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
FORT MADISON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Date: Thursday.

March 20, 2025 Time: 5:30 P.M. Place: Sheaffer Meeting Room and Online

AGENDA

Optional Electronic Meeting

The option of attending the meeting electronically is being offered. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (835 9498 8318) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

I. Excused absences

- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of minutes
- a. Meeting January 16, 2025
- b. Meeting February 20, 2025
 - V. Approval of the Bills
 - VI. Correspondence
- VII. Director's Report a. Financial
- b. Personnel
- c. Programming
- d. Collection Develop-

ment -

- e. Operations
- f. Facilities
- g. Professional VIII. Unfinished Busi-
- ness a. 2025/2026 Budget
- Update
 i. April 1 Public Hearing and Adopt propsed budget
- ii. April 15 Public hearing on 25/26 budget and approval of final budget.

b. Carol Sandrock Memorial – Second Presentation (?) – check minutes

- c. Clean ducts get estimate from Byron email
- 2nd presentation
 IX. New Business
- a. Newsbank Renewal
- b. Nomination of Officers
- c. Approve 2025 Holidays

Adjourn until April 17, 2025, 5:30 pm.

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Sports/From the Front

PCC File Photo

Fort Madison's Brylie Lorence lets go with a shot during the 2024 IGH-SAU girls' state track meet. She finished 15th last year but has rededicated herself to a state title this year...and may just get it.

Lorence's strong start has her changing season goals

LORENCE - Continued from Page 1

"I knew I was going to be a good competitor this year, but I never would have imagined being currently ranked No. 1 in the state and 23 in the nation," she said.

"I am excited to be highly ranked, but it doesn't affect the state meet and meeting my goals of having a state title.

"My performances so far are just a glimpse of what is to come this season as we head to outdoor meets. Indoor season has made me confident in myself and trusting that all the work I did in the offseason has paid off."

The girls this year are under the leadership of Jordyn Meierotto. Meierotto takes over from Brian Mendez, who has stepped back after close to three decades with the program.

"I wouldn't necessarily say anything is different for me besides I have one great coach instead of two. Coach Mendez has still been amazing and very supportive throughout the season," Lorence said.

Her goal last year was to get on the podium at state, but finished 15th with a throw just over 36 feet, a far cry from her early showings in 2025.

She's also hoping for a strong showing at Drake Relays in April.

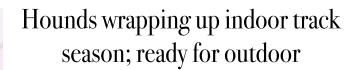
"My goal for last year was to see the podium at State and, when I fell short of that, I knew right away that I was going to work hard to win State this year. Since May last year, I have had my eyes set on winning a state title.

"I would love to win Drake this year. With how my indoor season went, I know I need to continue to grind and get better so I can see this happen," she said.

With that in mind, having already surpassed 44-feet has Lorence rethinking her potential for the season.

"I set a goal at the beginning of the season to hit 45 feet. I was surprised to be this close to my goal this soon in my season. After hitting 44' 10.75" at the Iowa State Championships, I reevaluated and made new goals for my outdoor season. I would like to improve and hit 46 feet by the first few meets of my outdoor season. And by the end of my season, I want to be at least in the 47s," she said.

"I am going to keep working hard the rest of this season until I meet my goal of winning state."



MT. VERNON - Fort Madison's Brylie Lorence continues her torrid start to the year, taking her third first-place finish of the year Monday night at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon

The senior led the pack with a 42' 4.5" in shotput in girls' 3A to win the title by a full two feet. Dayonna Davis, fresh off a strong junior season on the basketball court, took first place with a 15'-4" long jump, a half foot ahead of the pack for her first title of the year.

Olivia Bucker finished a strong 3rd in the 60-meter dash at 8.33. She finished third in the prelims, as well.

The girls' 4x800 of Addison Rump, Smith, Lyla Smith, and Jordyn Marshall took 1st at 10:44.10. Lillian Gelsthorpe got a top-10 in the 200-meters with 30.22 (9th). Avery Rump was second in the 1500 at 5:08.35 and Marshall was 4th with a time of 5:32.86. Schinstock took 2nd in the 400 at 1:05.48.

Addison Rump got her first 1st-place of the year with a 2:39.96 in the 800-meter run and the 4x200 team of Gelsthorpe, Buckner, Alaina Schwerin, and Davis took first place with a 1:56.46.

The 4x400 team of Schinstock, Mara Smith, Addison Rump and Avery Rump was 4th with a 4:35.34.



