Local couple killed in Arizona mishap

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Two local and prominent Wever residents were killed in a tragic auto/pedestrian accident in Fountain Hills, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix, on Tuesday.

Robert, 72, and Karen Bonta, 71, were both struck and killed while waiting to cross an intersection by a motorist who allegedly lost control of his vehicle.

According to reports from the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Department, at approximately 9:30 am Tuesday morning, the sheriff’s police received several 911 phone calls regarding a traffic accident at the corner of Saguaro and Palisades Boulevard in the Fountain Hills community.

The Bentas were walking northbound on the east sidewalk of Saguaro Blvd. at Palisades Blvd. where they stopped to cross Saguaro Blvd. Two other pedestrians, Patti, 60, and Ronald, 60, Doornbos, husband and wife, were also walking northbound on the same sidewalk when they were all struck by a 1998 gold Ford Explorer SUV.

Deputies reported the SUV was being driven by 27-year-old Alex Bashaw. Karen and Patti were pronounced dead at the scene. Robert and Ronald were transported to a local hospital via ground ambulance.

An effort is underway to fund the construction of a new press box/concession stand on the visitors’ side of Richmond Stadium. FMHS students in the school’s Building Trades program will be building the new facility.

John Luna proud of 26-year body of work with city

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He moved to Fort Madison with his family when he was just 13 years old and went on to work falling in the love with the community.

Now, after 26 years working for the people, most recently as the business management analyst for the city, John Luna has stepped aside.

Luna met with well-wishers, former employees, friends, and family Thursday night at the Riverview Park Pavilion.

He found it difficult to get to the plate of food sitting in front of him as people rotated in for hugs and handshakes... to reminisce and joke and poke a man whose impact can be seen around Fort Madison parks and recreation areas.

"We get lots of comments about how wonderful our parks are here in Fort Madison," Luna
Obituaries

MARY ESTER ARPINO

Mary Ester Arpino, 69 of Montrose, IA died Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Unity-Point Health in Keokuk, IA. She was born April 7, 1948 in Montrose, IA the daughter of Robert and Vera Henri Whitmore. On June 30, 1973 she was united in marriage to Robert Arpino in Montrose, IA. He survives. Other survivors include one son, Michael (Heather) Arpino of New Ulm, MN, three grandchildren, Adeleide, Pearl and Isaac Arpino, two brothers, Jim Whitmore (Joan) of Montrose and Wayne Whitmore of Montrose and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, one grandson, Simon Arpino and one brother, Harold Whitmore. Mary graduated from Central Lee High School in Donnellson, IA. In her younger years, Mary had been employed by Shaffer Pen in Ft. Madison, IA. She was a member of Bel Air Baptist Church in Keokuk. Mary enjoyed being outdoors, birdwatching and spending time planting flowers. She loved to cook and made delicious meals for her family and friends to enjoy. She had been active in Boy Scouts and was a den mother for many years. Mary loved the company of her cats. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Mike McMillen officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., Saturday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., Monday at the Keokuk National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Southeastern Renal Dialysis. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

LARRY JOSEPH MOELLER

Larry Joseph Moeller, 65, of Burlington passed away on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 3:54 PM at the Great River Hospice House. Larry was born on December 13, 1952 in Ft. Madison to Casper and Cecelia Menke Moeller. He lived at Cottonwood facility in Burlington. Larry was a member of Holy Family Parish. He enjoyed going fishing and going on day trips. Survivors include one brother, Darrell (Vicks) Moeller of Wilton, IA; two sisters, Linda (Bernie) Mohrfeld of West Point and Judy (Dale) Clark of Donnellson; nine nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and two nephews. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church with Reverend Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Cottonwood facility and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

ROBERT L. AND KAREN K. BONTA

Robert L. Bonta, age 72 & Karen K. Bonta, age 71, both of Wever, IA, passed away unexpectedly from a car/pedestrian accident on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in Arizona. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No other information is available at this time.
Wolf bringing Ivy back for fundraiser

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Martha Wolf will be bringing the Ivy back to Fort Madison. But just for a night.

Wolf will be hosting a benefit dinner “They Ivy’s Back In Town” for the 248th ASB Troops, currently serving with Matt Doty in the Middle East.

The event will be held at the St. John United Church of Christ, 501 10th Street in Fort Madison on Saturday March 24 beginning at 6 p.m.

The meal will consist of a five-course dinner prepared by the Ivy, but only 50 seats are available at $50 per person.

In August of 2017, Doty, with the Iowa National Guard, joined 500 other soldiers in a deployment to the Middle East. Before departing Doty expressed his concern for the soldiers going to serve and their families.

The St. John United Church has since sent care packages during the holiday and are now looking to send money to help plug some of the holes the families are facing while other family members serve their country.

Reservations can be made by calling Cindy at 319-372-1668, or by emailing theivy1992@hotmail.com or visiting stjohnucc01@q.com.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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additional storage. The first fundraiser will be a fried chicken dinner at the Charleston Board of Trade on June 24. More information about that event will be released closer to the event.

“Our building trades classes have agreed to help build us a new one. What a great opportunity our talented students will have to work on a bigger project on our own property. This will also save us a lot of money,” Mitchell said. “But there are still a lot of costs to this. We will have to buy the materials, relocate existing electrical, put in the concrete foundation, and have someone finish off the roof.” Mitchell said a design firm has already made the rough plans for the building that will be much wider and safer, but he’s waiting on a final estimate for the project.

“My best guess right now is anywhere from $30,000 to $35,000. The cost may come in lower, but we are trying to cover all scenarios.” School district budgeting has become an issue of late and districts across the state are facing hurdles with financing, so the district could only put up funds for the design cost. Mitchell said, “I am grateful for the help the district is able to give. I am in complete understanding of where our buildings and maintenance budget currently stands.” But Mitchell said safety is a real issue and the Activities Department has the ability to create funds for this project. He said fundraisers will be planned, including a chicken dinner at the Charleston Board of Trade on June 24, and he’s hoping that the community businesses and individuals will step forward to come together to help fund the much-needed project.

A group of coaches, led by head coach Tony Shiffman, are volunteering their time to deconstruct the existing press box over spring break. Their efforts will jump start the project,” said FMHS Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt. “We are partnering with Mohrfeld Electric to reconfigure the electrical service/layout. Huffman Welding will reconfigure the bleachers to make room for the new much larger structure that will have a concession stand and added storage on the first floor. The second floor will provide sound proof rooms for coaches from both teams as well as a room for the radio announcers and walk up access to the crew’s nest on the third level for video covers. The Building Trades program will panelize the building in the shop, including the three-story staircase, before the end of the school year where it will be staged until the start of the 2018-19 school year. Over the summer the new foundation work will be completed and when students return in August the first order of business will be to assemble the pressbox on the new foundation.

“The students are beyond excited about this project!” Kobelt said. “To know that they are going to be responsible for the construction of such an impressive structure that will be used for decades to come is pretty awesome. The seniors in the program see it as their legacy and the underclassmen are excited to know they will get to reap the benefits of their efforts during football, track, and tennis seasons staring next fall. There is a lot of pride and school spirit going into this build. The community support has been great and we’re just getting this project started.”

Mitchell said the project is a win-win for the school and the athletic department. “This is going to benefit not only football, track, and tennis, including a new storage area, but more importantly, it will benefit the young men and women who are and will be in the building trades program giving them hands-on learning experiences. It’s a win-win.” Those interested in contributing to the project or helping in anyway can contact Mitchell in the Activities Department at 372-1862.

From the Front

FMHS Athletic dept. looking for help funding project

FUNDS - Continued from Page 1

This the back view of the press box that FMHS is looking for funding to replace. Demolition could begin over spring break.
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Pen City Current has an exciting opportunity in media sales available for a customer service manager who is goal-oriented and creative, with a strong drive to succeed. Prior sales and media experience is a plus, but not necessary. Must be Internet and social media savvy, as well as highly computer literate. If you love working with people and thinking outside the box, this opportunity could be perfect for you!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2992 303rd ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbine lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (Unless not recommended by GRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.
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Marketing Director

We are in search of a candidate for a possible opening as Marketing Director for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. This is a part-time position with full benefits, which may become full-time. Duties include all marketing for the school system including advertising, press releases, public relations, etc. Successful candidate will be responsible for social media, event planning, and helping with recruitment and retention. Facilitating the current International Student Program is also part of the position.

Marketing Degree or several years of marketing experience is a plus. Necessary qualifications include excellent written, verbal, social media and interpersonal communication skills.

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Pen City Current - Friday, March 16, 2018 - 7
said. "I take that as a great compliment because we, as a city, have worked hard on the parks without the budgets some of the other communities have."

Luna and his wife Kathy own Wonder Years Learning Center in Fort Madison and he said his wife is about four years from retirement so his plans still focus on the community. “My initial goal, when I decided to leave in February, which turned into January because I got a month IPERS credit, I was going to take three months to relax and figure out what I want to do. By the end of April, I’ll be relaxed enough to kind of put a plan together. I’ve talked with a couple of different organizations about options that I’d like to pursue. I like working with people. I love the interaction,” he said.

He said the projects are volunteer in nature. Luna served nine years with the Fort Madison YMCA before joining city staff. “That’s what I really excelled in and when I came over to the city they slid me into the parks and recreation department. I loved that because I got to take care of all these beautiful parks in the city,” Luna said.

Luna worked for eight different city managers or administrators and about five different mayors over the past quarter century. When Luna was at the Y, he had been on the city council for one and a half years and had to resign from that position. He said it’s a good idea that the YMCA is now running the city pools. “It’ll be a good thing. (YMCA Executive Director) Ryan (Wilson) has been in recreation for a quite a while. He was even coming through my programs when I was at the YMCA so that’s neat to see,” Luna said.

"But it’s going to be a challenge and a learning process for the community as to the way the two systems operate."

The support of the city and its residents has made the work easy, Luna said. "I want to thank the community for all their help and support because without them I couldn’t have done the things I did with the community and the YMCA. This community’s been real supportive of me and the things I’ve tried to implement and tried to incorporate into the community."
Since 2008, Saving Abel has embodied the definition of “Southern Rock.” Even before their “Self Titled” debut LP, they were barnstorming the country, making fans everywhere they went, just by being themselves. Simple, down home, charming, country-boys with immeasurable talent that was destined to take them straight to the top. The band was signed by A&R wizard Jason Flom to Capitol records and their first single, “Addicted” did just that, reaching number one on several charts and the follow-up singles “18 Days” and “Drowning” helped sell over 750,000 copies of their debut album. They toured heavily in support of this album, playing with Buckcherry and Avenged Sevenfold, and later on Nickelback, in arenas across North America. Night after night, the boys would go back to the bus with their ears ringing from 15,000 fans screaming their lyrics.

Knowing that they would need something great to follow up with, the boys set out to write their sophomore album on Capitol, “Miss America.” Topping the Active Rock and Hard Rock charts yet again with “Sex is Good” and “Stupid Girl” solidified Saving Abel’s place both on the radio and live. Setting out on their own tour this time, Saving Abel headlined theaters around the country for almost 2 years non-stop. They toured with several artists and made a lot of friends along the way, but always kept their focus on the fans, and their eyes toward the future.

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