**FMCSD bans 20 seniors from commencement**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**PCC EDITOR**

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison School District officials have suspended approximately 20 seniors after a Sunday night vandalism spree that took place inside the Fort Madison High School.

The suspension is through June 3, which would preclude the students from participating in graduation ceremonies on Saturday, June 2.

Parents of the students involved in what was described as water balloons being thrown inside the building, tp-ing inside the school building and putting Vaseline on the door knobs throughout the school, made presentations to the board. At Monday night’s regular school board meeting, about 60 parents and students showed up for the meeting. Two parents and three students spoke to the issue.

Superintendent Erin Slater said after the meeting that she couldn’t confirm or comment on disciplinary action against any students. She also didn’t comment on whether the board would reconsider the penalties.

However students outside the meeting afterwards confirmed that 20 students have been suspended and are facing criminal vandalism charges and are currently banned from participating in graduation ceremonies.

Two seniors, McKenna Fehseke and Sierra Howardsen, both gave emotional pleas for the board and superintendent to reconsider the penalty of the graduation.

“I’m hear to try to re-mediate some things that happened this morning,” Fehseke said.

“About 20% of the class was told we cannot attend graduation and we are suspended and we are facing criminal charges,” she said. “I’m hear to ask that decision be revoked regarding graduation.

We all would do what we can, and is necessary, to fix what we’ve done. Whether that is set up or tear down graduation... anything we can do we are willing to do,” Fehseke said of all the students have learned in their four years at the FMHS, the biggest lesson probably came Monday when they learned actions have consequences.

See SCHOOL, page 4

**Police want help nabbing credit card skimmer**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**PCC EDITOR**

FORT MADISON - Local law enforcement is looking for a person of interest in a case that broke over the weekend involving a credit card skimming device placed over an ATM on the city’s west side.

On Sunday, Fort Madison Police posted on their Facebook page that they have a person of interest and they are looking for the public’s help in identifying the person and locating his whereabouts.

“Working with Connection Bank, we now have a person of interest. If anyone can identify who this male is please call FMPD at 319-372-2525,” the post indicated.

“FMPD is confident that no one’s banking information was compromised due to us having the skimmer in our hands. Reviewing video doesn’t show the suspect came back at anytime to retrieve information. The skimmer was installed at approximately 0545 at the west end location and removed by FMPD at 1430. However if you still see fraudulent charges on your credit cards please call FMPD at 319-372-2525.”

See CREDIT CARDS, page 8
Pilot Grove Savings Bank gives 25K to Fairfield Arts & Convention center

FAIRFIELD – Pilot Grove Savings Bank donated $25,000 to the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is getting ready to celebrate its fourth anniversary in Fairfield, and the board of directors for the bank approved of this donation as a way of saying thanks to the community in which they do business.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is proud to be a supporter of Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. They have been known to sponsor the yearly artist series and Southeast Iowa Farm Show.

“We are thrilled to have Pilot Grove Savings Bank participate in our 5 for the Future campaign,” comments Fairfield’s Mayor, Ed Malloy. “Strong community support is the basis for the success of our arts and convention center and local economy. Outstanding cultural amenities like our arts and convention center make Fairfield stand out as a cool place to live and to visit.”

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is known to sponsor the yearly artist series and Southeast Iowa Farm Show. They have been known to sponsor the yearly artist series and Southeast Iowa Farm Show.

They made this donation to set up the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center with a portion of the monies needed to meet their goal.

“Pilot Grove Savings Bank is pleased to make this donation to a worthy organization. We encourage others in the community to follow suit and donate if they have not done so already,” said Melissa Flowers, Marketing Director of Pilot Grove Savings Bank.

Brittany Giandon, Melissa Flowers, and Andy Flowers of Pilot Grove Savings Bank present a $25,000 check to Fairfield’s Mayor, Ed Malloy and Rustin Lippincott, of the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.

Photo by courtesy of Pilot Grove Savings Bank

OBITUARIES

BETTY MAE BERGTHOLD

Betty Mae Bergthold, 94, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away away at 2:40 a.m. on Monday, May 21, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was born on July 24, 1923 in Fort Madison, IA to John Leslie & Echo Jaren Sloan. She married Francis “Frank” Bergthold on September 29, 1942, they later divorced. She worked for the Sheaffer Pen Company, Bergthold Transfer & Storage, Lee County Recorder’s Office, and Allied Van Lines. She was a member of St. Mary & Joseph Church and enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting, camping and traveling. She traveled extensively in the United States and to ten countries in Europe.

Betty is survived by: 1-daughter: Terry (Philip) Dunlap of Tahlequah, OK; 3-sons: Francis Bergthold of Montrose, IA, Rick Bergthold of Boone, IA & Lanny (Kathy) Bergthold of St. Paul, MN; 8-grandchildren; several great grandchildren; 4-nieces & her beloved Maltese dog, Penny. She was preceded in death by: her parents & 3-brothers: Chester, Maurice & Richard Sloan. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 2018 with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Plung officiating.

Burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.lynkfuneral.com.

JOE HENSON

Joe Henson, 65, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 2:12 p.m. at his home in Fort Madison. Services are pending at Schmitz - Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, Illinois. www.sbbfuneralhome.com

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 22 May
Partly Cloudy
High – 74.6º F | Low – 68.5º F

WED 23 May
Clear Skies
High- 82.7º F | Low – 73.4º F

THU 24 May
Light Rain
High- 85.2º F | Low – 75.7º F

FRI 25 May
Light Rain
High – 87.4º F | Low – 77.2º F

SAT 26 May
Light Rain
High – 88.6º F | Low – 71.9º F

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Subscribe to #PCC today
Paid options also available.
For the Record

For Madison Police report 05/18/18 - 8:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of 2nd Street.

16-year-old female juvenile in 05/18/18 - 10:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a person.

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Students, parents ask district to reconsider

Richard Fehseke addresses the Fort Madison School Board Monday night on a timer asking the board to reconsider a ban it implemented on a timer asking the students to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Our small ideas which are meant to be fun and games have real consequences and we did not take that into consideration when we made the decision we did. I think we are all ashamed of what we’ve done so I ask you please, as a school board, please allow us to get back on the right track and allow us to walk the stage with the other 80% of our class.

Fehseke’s father, Richard, said parents will be appealing the district’s decision to suspend the ordinance. He asked that the board consider alternative punishments that would send the right message about consequences but at the same time allow the students to participate in graduation ceremonies.

“It’s a common practice that seniors do something as a senior prank and echoing what McKenna has said, fun and games have consequences that impact others. I’ve talked with people investigating the incident. This involved students going into the school, throwing water balloons, and putting Vaseline on the door handles. Concern existed that there may be some permanent damages. Fortunately as the day progressed we found out there wasn’t permanent damages,” Fehseke said.

“The decision of the school board and superintendent to suspend more than 20 seniors for the rest of the senior year and deny them participating in commencement proceedings is gonna be appealed by a lot of parents.”

He said the appeal works on procedural and result-based grounds, and the parent groups were going to ask the school board and superintendent to review the punishment in light of the circumstances for other appropriate steps that can be taken that would allow them to participate in commencement.

Senior Sierra Howardson said she was part of the senior class prank, but her plea to be allowed to participate in graduation was also emotional in her plea to be allowed to participate in graduation.

“The reason I’m standing before you is not a reason I’m proud of. Over the weekend the senior class planned and followed a childish tradition to TP the FMHS,” she said. “While this prank appeared to be harmless, it led to members of our student body entering the school and vandalizing the inside of our school and for this I’m deeply sorry.”

Howardson said she was pleading on behalf of her fellow students and asked the board for leniency.

“While I will be the first to volunteer and clean up and do community service to pay for my horrible choices, I just ask that you please not take away the beautiful memories my class and I will make on graduation day,” she said.

Senior Logan Allen said he was part of the prank and understood the acts-caused problems but didn’t want his mother to have the chance to see him go across the stage.

“I was part of the senior class prank, but my mom has not seen one of her kids graduate high school and my mom doesn’t deserve to not see a child walk across the stage because of a mistake I made,” Allen said.

No decision was made nor were any comments made by the board other than board President Tim Wondra thanking those who spoke for their participation.

In other action, the board:

• heard from Brian Wright, who addressed the board about bruises that his daughter allegedly received at the hands of a school administrator for not saying good morning on the way into school. Wright produced pictures of the student’s bruised arm and directed any additional questions on the matter to Curtis Dial, a Keokuk attorney.
• did not provide any action regarding the appeal.

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

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Lee County Health Department

www.leecountyhd.org

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Great Opportunity for Part-Time or Second Income

Business in Fort Madison is looking for motivated individuals who would like to work part-time hours in a private contractor role, providing janitorial and cleaning services for a building of approximately 15,000 square feet. This is a perfect opportunity for someone who wants to earn some extra income or work a second part-time job.

The work usually requires three to four hours per day/week. You will generally be performed in the morning or evening before or after business hours. All equipment and supplies will be furnished by the company.

Applicants must be hard-working, completely honest, insured, bonded, and must be able to pass a thorough background test. Payment for this work is negotiable.

Applicants interested in this opportunity to provide janitorial services, must submit a letter of interest, a work history that details related experience, and three professional references no later than 30 May, 2018 to:

Janitorial/Cleaning Services
P.O. Box 366
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Suitable applicants will be contacted and asked to inspect the property and submit a quote/price for work.
Police have lead, photos of suspect

**CREDIT CARD** - Continued from Page 1

statements please contact your bank and FMPD so we can look into it. Also no one’s personal information is comprised due to it not being stored on the card itself.”

The statement said the card skimmer was located on the ATM at the bank and encouraged ATM users to tug on the device that reads the card.

“Thankfully, a Fort Madison resident who does this at every ATM or gas pump they used found this one,” the statement indicated.

Officials said card skimmers come in many shapes and sizes. Typically they will look identical to the original card reader. They are very discreet.

Card skimmers are used to obtain the information of the card being used. This information can then be transferred to another card that has a magnetic strip and then be used at a store or used online with the card information that was captured.

This is also considered fraud and is being investigated. FMPD strongly recommends that before inserting your card, pull on the card reader itself. If there is any play in the reader then do not use it and notify an employee or local officials.

Fort Madison Police are hoping these images will help residents provide information on the suspect that allegedly has placed the skimming gadget shown at upper left on an ATM machine on the west end of Fort Madison. Police are advising residents to check card swipes by jigging them before inserting their cards. Officials said because the police department has the item, no personal information was obtained by the criminal responsible.

HELP SAVE LIVES

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11:00am to 1:00pm

MVRBC Donor Bus

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To donate Call Mike McKnight at 319-372-6140 or go online at www.bloodcenterimpact.org. Please eat before you donate, bring a photo ID. Eligible to donate if your last donation was prior to 04/04/2018.

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.

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Info Office

2092 303rd Ave

Ft. Madison, IA

1-319-524-6175

Keokuk Info Office

1-319-372-6140

Keokuk, IA

1-319-628-9715

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For the Record

**RECORD - Cont’d**

Robert White, 38 of St. Louis, left the roadway and entered the right shoulder and slid out of control striking a concrete barrier on the right side of the road and end up on the right shoulder. One person, Jesiree E. Jenkins was reported to have been injured in the accident. No citations were reported.

05/20/18 - 3:40 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Robert Enger, 21, of Wever, at the intersection of 2nd Street and Avenue E, on a charge of operating while intoxicated. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.

05/20/18 - 6:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 340th Street. A vehicle driven by Ken-dra C. Henry, 28 of Roseville lost control on left curve and began to slide and ended up nosed down against a cement culvert. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene.

05/20/18 - 10:39 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to two medical calls and one lift assist.

05/20/18 - 10:41 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies assisted with a car accident on the 1700 block of 340th Street where a vehicle was reported to be on fire. No injuries reported.

05/20/18 - 1:14 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 340th Street.

Robert White, 38 of St. Louis, left the roadway and entered the right shoulder and slid out of control striking a concrete barrier on the right side of the road and end up on the right shoulder. One person, Jesiree E. Jenkins was reported to have been injured in the accident. No citations were reported.

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$749
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Model #44010001

$399
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Model #PG-40409SOLB

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- 24 LED lights on 8 steel ribs.
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- Porcelain-enameled bowl and lid.
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2-ply woven polyester. 1-year colorfast guarantee.
T 535 866 3

YOUR CHOICE
2.99
Rust-Oleum® 12 oz. Spray Paint
Paint and primer for superior coverage.
Available in a wide selection of colors.
P 120 932, 936 B6

YOUR CHOICE
12.98
Master Tradesman® 10 x 12 ft. Storage Tarp
Waterproof, UV- and mildew-resistant in blue or green/brown.
P 797 763, 777 9

YOUR CHOICE
2.99
Scotts® 5,000 sq. ft. Turf Builder® Plus 2 Weed & Feed
Phosphorous-free. 28-0-3. L 589 414 B40

SALE
17.99
Roundup® 40 oz. Weed & Grass Killer Plus Concentrate
Fast-acting formula kills the roots. Use in a tank sprayer.
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 147 895 B12

SALE
16.99
-2.00
Phosphorous-free. 28-0-3.
L 123 759 30

SALE
9.99
-2.00
MAIL-IN REBATE*
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 141 987 B6

SALE
7.99
-2.00
Miracle-Gro® 1 cu ft. Potting Mix
6-month feed.
L 462 572 B65

SALE
12.99
Knights® 12 x 18.7 lb. Garden Hose
After $3 mail-in rebate*
L 402712 7 x 600

SALE
4.99
-4.00
INSTANT REBATE*
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 147 895 B12

SALE
29.99
Zero-Grill 50 ft. Contractor Garden Hose
100 ft. Hose, 19.9lb.
L 211186 100 ft. Hose, 19.9lb.

SALE
18.99
-4.00
INSTANT REBATE*
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 211186 100 ft. Hose, 19.9lb.

SALE
16.99
Rust-Oleum® AdhesiBond® Chair
Fast-drying formula bonds well to most surfaces.
L 192588 9 x 14.5 x 14.5 in.

SALE
49.99
-2.00
MAIL-IN REBATE*
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 462572 B65

SALE
34.99
6 ft. Deluxe Folding Table
Folding table made of metal for extra strength.
L 403 021 3

SALE
15.99
-2.00
MAIL-IN REBATE*
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 462572 B65

SALE
6.99
12.99
6 ft. Deluxe Folding Chair
Weatherproof polypropylene chair. Easy to clean.
W 104 035 B11

SALE
19.99
-2.00
MAIL-IN REBATE*
*Limit 2 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.
L 462572 B65

SALE
2.99
Rust-Oleum® 1 qt. Premium Conventional Motor Oil
Choose formula 10W30, 10W40, 5W30, SAE30 or 5W20.
H 171 352, 353, 355, 359, 361 F6

SALE
12.99
6 ft. Deluxe Folding Chair
Weatherproof polypropylene chair. Easy to clean.
W 104 035 B11

SALE
2.99
Valvoline® 1 qt. Premium Conventional Motor Oil
Choose formula 10W30, 10W40, 5W30, SAE30 or 5W20.
H 171 352, 353, 355, 359, 361 F6

SALE
2.99
Rust-Oleum® 12 oz. Spray Paint
Paint and primer for superior coverage.
Available in a wide selection of colors.
P 120 932, 936 B6

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH®

Final Sale Dates May 14 thru 28 2018

www.kempkerstruevalue.com
VISIT ONE OF OUR 5 LOCATIONS!

KEMPKER’S RENTAL

1904 Ave. H
Ft. Madison, IA
319-372-3515
M-F: 7:30am - 7:00pm
Sat: 7:30am - 6:00pm
Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm

1405 E. Washington St.
Mt. Pleasant, IA
319-385-1377
M-C: 7:30am - 5:30 pm
Sat: 7:30am - 4:00pm
Sun: CLOSED

608 South 9th St.
Burlington, IA
319-752-1584
M-C: 7:30am - 5:30 pm
Sat: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Sun: 10:00am - 2:00pm

204 West 1st St.
Grimes, IA
515-986-0031
M-C: 8:00am - 7:00 pm
Sat: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Sun: 10:00am - 4:00pm

502 E. 1st St.
Huxley, IA
515-597-2338
M-C: 8:00am - 9:00 pm
Sat: 8:00am - 6:00 pm
Sun: 11:00am - 5:00pm