Hawkins Auto catches fire Monday night

Fort Madison firefighters battle flames coming through the roof at Hawkins Auto at 16th Street and Avenue E. The fire was reported to LeeComm and dispatched at right around 10 p.m. Monday night. No injuries were reported Monday and no cause was available.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Three apply to fill school board seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Three district residents have submitted their name for an appointment to the Fort Madison School Board.

The board has to appoint someone before Feb. 1 to avoid the cost and formality of a special election, due to the sudden death of former school board vice president Gayla Young on Jan. 1.

At Monday’s regular meeting of the school board, FHCSD Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said Trisha Hopper, Bradley Menke, and Joshua Wykert have all submitted applications to the district for the appointment.

The district voted Monday to hold a special election next Monday to approve one of the three to the board.

Applications were accepted through 4 p.m. on Monday.

Board President Dr. Tim Wondra said it would be good if all three candidates were present at the Jan. 28 meeting.

“That way they could kind of go through the questions they answered on the application,” Wondra said.

After hearing from the three candidates the board would consider a nomination to appoint one of the members and that appointment would take effect immediately.

District Secretary Sandy Elmore would administer the oath of office.

The person appointed to the position would hold the director spot until the next regular school election which could be the upcoming next attempt to pass a bond referendum to build a new elementary school. That vote could come as early as this spring.

If the referendum goes in front of voters before the next regular school board election, the newly appointed person’s seat would be on the ballot, as would the seat currently held by Brian Steffensmeier, who was appointed to fill a vacancy created when former board member Jillian Tronel, moved out of state.

Also, at the meeting, board member Dianne Hope was nominated and approved to take over the vice president’s seat. Lois DiPrima was nominated and approved to take over the vice president’s seat. Lois DiPrima was nominated and approved to take over the vice president’s seat.

The district has to appoint someone before Feb. 1 to avoid the cost and formality of a special election, due to the sudden death of former school board vice president Gayla Young on Jan. 1.

The board has to appoint someone before Feb. 1 to avoid the cost and formality of a special election, due to the sudden death of former school board vice president Gayla Young on Jan. 1.

Old Fort Players bring out “Harvey”

Veteran cast returns from Pulitzer winning comedy

In an early rehearsal, Director Shelley Dowling helps her actors smooth out the blocking of a scene in the upcoming Old Fort Players production of “Harvey.” Actors from left to right are: Robbie Phillips, Ty Clute, Jim Posz, and Mark Philp.

BY DOROTHY SCHULTE
For the Old Fort Players

FORT MADISON – “Harvey,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy was also a hit movie starring Jimmy Stewart in 1950. The stage play by Mary Chase, is the story of a perfect gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best friend, Harvey — a pooka, which is a six and a half-foot tall, invisible white rabbit. When Elwood begins introducing Harvey around town, his embarrassed sister, Veta Louise, and her daughter, Myrtle Mae, determine to commit Elwood to a sanitarium. A mistake is made, however, and Veta is committed rather than Elwood! Comedy ensues when the mistake is realized and a frantic search begins for Elwood and the invisible pooka.

Will Veta ever understand that she can love her brother and his invisible best friend just as they are? The cast called for six men, five women and one very tall invisible white rabbit in the title role. After the initial casting of Harvey, the

See OFP, page 4

Advertiser Index

Classifieds P.5
Fort Madison Community Hospital P.3
Fort Madison Family YMCA P.2
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups P.2
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.4
Kempker’s True Value Rental P.1-8B
Pen City Current P.2,4-6
Pilot Grove Savings Bank P.6
Professional Services P.5

Scan the code to Subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!

News Index
Current-Lee P.3
For the Record P.2-3
From the front P.4
Local News P.4-6
Lottery Numbers P.3
Obituaries P.2
Everett Leroy Baker
Harold E. Herdrich
Sports P.4
Weather P.6
OBITUARIES

HERDICH

Harold E. “Shorty” Herdrich, 91, of Franklin, Iowa, passed away at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, January 19, 2019, at his home.

Born November 1, 1927, in Franklin, Iowa, the son of Emil and Bessie (Buttroff) Herdrich. On June 19, 1948, he married Wanda M. Ramsey in Fort Madison, Iowa. She preceded him in death on June 29, 2016.

Survivors include his children: Pamela Taylor of Fort Madison, Linda (Larry) Bolanos of Sioux City, Iowa, Harold “Tony” (Lana) Herdrich of Dallas City, Illinois, Carol Herdrich of Donnellson, Monica (Dale) Stecker of Knoxville, Tennessee, James (Dee) Herdrich of Fort Madison, Cindy (Rob) Howard of Denmark, David (Kris) Herdrich of Omaha, Nebraska and Todd (Nicole) Herdrich of Donnellson; special son-in-law: Tom and Lola Marsh of Farmington; twenty grandchildren; nineteen great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Emil and Bessie; wife: Wanda; daughter: Debbie Marsh; two grandchildren; siblings: Arlene Haefner, Kenneth Herdrich and Maynard Herdrich.

Harold served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He retired from John Deere in Donnellson. He was a member of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Franklin and the Farmington Rod and Gun Club. Harold loved fishing, decorating cookies, playing Euchre, drinking Kesslers and especially spending time with family.

John Deere in Donnellson. He was a member of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two grandchildren, Katie Herdrich and Justin Abernathy and a sister, Barbara Baker.

Leroy was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served during Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion Post #41 in Keokuk. Leroy had been employed by R&J Decaling in Ft. Madison, IA. Everett enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing and hunting. He loved putting together model cars and making go carts and mini bikes.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Elaine Foley. Burial with military rites will be in the Montrose Cemetery in Montrose, IA.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home with family meeting with from 6-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the family. Online messages may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
01/18/19 – 4:33 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H. 01/18/19 – 4:39 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue E. 01/18/19 – 5:55 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3700 block of Avenue L. 01/19/19 – 2:57 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Christopher Allen Selz, 41, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for 3rd-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/19/19 – 1:10 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue N. 01/20/19 – 3:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Mark Leonard Martinez, 25, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 48th Street on a charge of assault while displaying a dangerous weapon and interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/19/19 – 11:15 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Charles Robert Eli Boyle, 25, of Fort Madison in the 900 block of 22nd Street, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on a promise to appear. 01/21/19 – 12:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Allen William Penrod, 22, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation. 01/21/19 – 1:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Justin Robert Bowden, 37, of Montrose at the intersection of Hwy 2 and Hwy. 61 on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation. 01/21/19 – 5:34 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the in the 5400 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
01/19/19 – 11:47 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Douglas Scott Kittle, 50, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant of violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/19/19 – 3:40 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3400 block of Hwy 218. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Alayna Lynn Adams, 35, of Keokuk, lost control and entered the ditch where it struck a pine tree causing damage to the vehicle and tree. Adams was cited...
FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to en City Current.

Children’s Immunization Clinic
The Lee County Health Department will be holding a children’s immunization clinic with free lead testing on Thursday, Jan. 24 at the LCHD’s facility at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from noon until 5:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, those insured by Medicaid/MCO or those with private insurance that doesn’t cover vaccines.

No appointment is necessary. Call 319-372-5225 for more information.

Community Blood Drive
Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will hold a drive at Lincoln Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. To donate call LeAnn Cashman at 319-372-2896.

Cake Auction
The Fort Madison Bloodhound Boosters will hold a cake auction on Saturday, Jan 26 at breaks during the varsity girls and boys basketball games.

Nerf Wars at FM YMCA
The Fort Madison YMCA will be the site of another round of Nerf Wars on Sunday, Jan. 27. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. boys and girls ages 1 through 6 will compete in Nerf Wars in the gymnasium. Children must bring eye protection, their own Nerf guns, darts/bullets/balls. Cost is $5 for members and $10 for non-members. For more information contact program director Noah Dean or visit the YMCA’s Facebook page for more information.

Local artist on display at SCC
Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her “Raptors and Other Birds of Prey” series.

Evening with Chuck Long
Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, Feb. 12 for presentation, including “Evening with Chuck Long and Other Birds of Prey” series.

Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her “Raptors and Other Birds of Prey” series.

For the Record – Continued from Page 2
for failure to maintain control and failure to provide proof of insurance. The vehicle was towed from the scene. 01/18/19 – 4:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested David Wendell Gilsbertson, 37, of Burlington, at the Des Moines County Jail on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/18/19 – 5:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Bryan Keith Morehouse, Jr., 33, of Fort Madison at the sheriff’s office on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/18/19 – 8:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jessica Jean Dewitt, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 5200 block of River Valley Rd. on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/19/19 – 12:11 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report a vehicle driven by Erlica Lakeshia McQuay, 37, of Burlington, lost control headed northbound and slid sideways in snow-covered whiteout conditions. Another vehicle driven by Jason Paul Pohlmeyer, 33, of Burlington, couldn’t avoid the vehicle in the conditions and struck McQuay’s vehicle. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. Both vehicles were towed. 01/19/19 – 2:57 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Christopher Allen Seitz, 41, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue G., on a warrant for 5th-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 01/20/19 – 7:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a three-vehicle accident at 254th Street, where, according to the report, a vehicle driven by Justin Skibbe had collided with two other vehicles and property post on the property of Charleston Board of Trade. Skibbe was taken into custody for OWI and was cited for no proof of insurance. 01/20/19 – 8:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Justin James Skibbe, 33, in the 1900 block of 23rd Street on a charge of operating vehicle while intoxicated. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/21/19 – 12:40 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Charles Robert Thomas, 58, of Keokuk, in the 3400 block of 243rd Avenue in Keokuk on charges of 3rd-degree burglary and possession of burglar’s tools. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/21/19 – 12:40 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jimmy George Barragian, 55, of Warsaw, II., in the 3400 block of 243rd Avenue in Keokuk on charge of 3rd degree burglary and possession of burglar’s tools. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 01/21/19 – 6:51 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Chelsea Nicole Smith, 20, of Donnellson, at Siemens on Hwy. 61 on a warrant for contempt of court. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Old Fort Players
“Harvey” set to run
Feb. 15-17, 22-24

The Fort Madison Athletic Department honored 2018 Class 3A State wrestling champion Harlan Steffensmeier with his state plaque on Thursday prior to the Hounds’ win over Keokuk. Accepting for Steffensmeier was his mom Margaret Steffensmeier, his sister, and Head Coach Ryan Smith. Steffensmeier is currently wrestling for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.
Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm 800-216-2370

CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Unlock more savings — with [auto + renters]

Contact me to schedule a SuperCheck® and see how simple combining your auto and renters insurance can be!

More Information.

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!

CD & DVD Players, and VCRs, Printers, Drop Cords Radios, Cell Phones All TVs, Monitors, Projections

Material can potentially recycle free of charge:

Recycling free of charge:

Material used in the making of it are not recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials.

As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move.

Unlock more savings — with [auto + renters]

Contact me to schedule a SuperCheck® and see how simple combining your auto and renters insurance can be!

More Information.

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!

CD & DVD Players, and VCRs, Printers, Drop Cords Radios, Cell Phones All TVs, Monitors, Projections

Material can potentially recycle free of charge:

Recycling free of charge:

Material used in the making of it are not recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials.

As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move.

Unlock more savings — with [auto + renters]

Contact me to schedule a SuperCheck® and see how simple combining your auto and renters insurance can be!

More Information.

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!

CD & DVD Players, and VCRs, Printers, Drop Cords Radios, Cell Phones All TVs, Monitors, Projections

Material can potentially recycle free of charge:

Recycling free of charge:

Material used in the making of it are not recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials.

As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move.

Unlock more savings — with [auto + renters]

Contact me to schedule a SuperCheck® and see how simple combining your auto and renters insurance can be!
Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Pat Stecker as their December Employee of the Month. Stecker works in the Health Information Services Department (HIS). She has been with FMCH for two years. Stecker was chosen with this nomination:

Stecker lives these Standards of Behavior Guest Relations, Respect and Communications. This employee goes above, and beyond on a daily basis to help our patients. She often gets phone calls for other areas and instead of sending the patient in another direction; she gets as much information and tries to track down the answer herself. She also goes the extra mile in her daily responsibilities by making additional phone calls as needed and reaching out on the patient’s behalf to help them get what they need. Everyone has always been very helpful here at FMCH, willing to answer any question and help me to learn. The entire HIS Department are great to work with, in particular my partner Carla is always a great source of knowledge, support and friendship. We work well together,” expressed Stecker. “I most enjoy working with our patients. Both on the phone and especially in person. Getting to know them in a small way and hopefully giving them a bright spot in their day. I have experienced serious health issues in the past myself and know firsthand how much the smallest act of kindness can lift the spirit. To quote a co-worker, whom I have the utmost admiration for, ‘if you can be anything, be kind.’

Stecker enjoys spending time with her four daughters and their families when not helping patients at FMCH.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above, and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.