Thursday fire sends one to hospital

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A fire that broke out in a Fort Madison home early Thursday evening has sent one man to the hospital with life threatening injuries.

Fort Madison firefighters called to the scene of 1121 Avenue E at 6:28 p.m., according to Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig. Ft. Madison firefighters pulled a man from the smoke-filled home and he was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital escorted by city police. Sittig said the man’s condition was unknown.

A witness at the scene said medical crews were performing CPR on the man as he was transported to the ambulance.

The cause of the fire is unknown and LeeComm paged an “all call” with the home being in close proximity to another home. No damage was reported to the other structure and flames were only seen coming from the corner of the roof of the structure’s porch.

All three FMFD vehicles were on the scene as were Fort Madison Police, Lee County EMS, and Lee County Sheriff’s Department.

Satellite voting on new school continues today

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Voting continues Friday on a proposed $30 million PreK-3rd grade elementary school for the Fort Madison Community School District.

The new building is proposed to be constructed on the campus just south of Bluff Road near the Fort Madison Middle School.

Construction of the building is estimated at $24.8 million with traffic safety upgrades and furnishings making up the additional $5.2 million.

The school district hired Carl A. Nelson Company out of Burlington to oversee the construction of the facility, which caused a backlash in the community because Fort Madison’s Baxter Construction was not awarded the work on a 4-3 vote by the board.

Board members Dianne Hope, Brian Steffensmeier, and Jared Hotop voted for Baxter Construction, while board president Dr. Tim Wondra and board members Lois DiPrima, Carol Ross, and Gayla Young voted for Carl A. Nelson.

Absentee balloting has been going on for weeks and two satellite locations were set up, the first was at Fort Madison High School last Friday and will be held again this Friday at the Fort Madison Community Hospital’s Foggy Conference Room on the administration side of the facility.

Lee County Election Administrator Nikki Sugars said more than 900 absentee ballots have been turned in as of Thursday morning.

“I’ve been pretty steady. And Friday we had 150 voters in six hours over at the high school,” she said.

Voters have until April 1 to get absentee ballots mailed to the county auditor. Ballots can be hand delivered to the county through polling on April 2.

Voters have turned down proposed referendums on three previous attempts with the last attempt in the fall, coming in at 59.2%, just short of the state-mandated 60%-plus 1 supermajority.

Controversy sprung up over the referendum when Tony Baxter, president of Baxter Construction, released a statement through Baxter Foundation that he was pulling the foundation’s support of district youth activities for 2019 to take a stand against against how the
OBITUARIES

RICHARD BANGERT

Richard Bangert, 80, of Burlington, IA died Sunday, March 24, 2019 at the OakView Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Burlington, IA.

He was born August 18, 1938 in Ft. Madison, IA the son of Harold Louis and Alta Harman Bangert.

On September 18, 1960 he was united in marriage to Karen Reeder in Keokuk, IA and they celebrated fifty-eight years of life together. She survives.

Other survivors include three children, Kurt (Theresa) Bangert of Kansas City, MO, Kathleen (Brett) Hodson of St. Louis, MO and Kevin Bangert of Burlington, IA; five grandchildren, Justine, Reid, and Virginia Bangert and Izabel and Hugh Hodson, two sisters, Deanna (Larry) McLearn of Montrose, IA and Barbara Bloom of Fairfield, IA; one brother, David Bangert (Esther Tweedy) of Donnellson, IA and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Richard graduated from Montrose High School with the Class of 1956. He furthered his education by attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA, where he received his Electrical Engineering Degree in 1961.

Richard was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Burlington and was instrumental in the rebuilding of the church after a major fire. Richard had a very successful engineering career, including many patents and early robotic innovations. In 1983, Richard opened the Bangert Computer Systems in Burlington where he remained the owner and operator for many years.

Richard liked to collect everything from clocks to tractors, arrowheads and sleds. He was a master gardener with a green thumb and enjoyed giving tours of their ten acre garden. He had several large "pick-your-own" strawberry patches in Burlington and the surrounding area for fifteen years. He loved to travel to the Oregon coast and enjoyed taking spring breaks with his family. He was a supporter of the Capital Theatre in Burlington and helped design and build the theater's art deco lighting system.

Richard was an organ donor.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday at the First United Methodist Church Fourth Street in Burlington with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Haley McManus memorial fund.

Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

SUSAN J. FRANCIS

Susan J. Francis, 66 of Keokuk, IA, entered into heaven surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

She was born April 24, 1952 in Luray, MO the daughter of Lynn and Pauline Seyb.

Susan graduated from Clark County Rl High School in Kahoka, MO with the Class of 1970. She later attended Southeastern Community College in Keokuk and received her LPN degree.

Susan was a member and senior officer at the Keokuk Salvation Army for many years.

Her philanthropy through the church touched many lives.

She loved to crochet, play bingo, go camping and sing karaoke. Susan had a way of approaching strangers and making them feel comfortable. There wasn’t a person on this earth that she didn’t make friends with.

She loved caring for people and was known by many as Mama Sue. Her pride and joy and faithful companion was her mini-pin, Harley.

She is survived by three sons, Kenny (Brier) Alvis of Keokuk, Carl (Karinsa) McManus and Ryan McManus; cousins, Alaina, Henry, Kory, Kaya, Kyeore, Cole, Aaron, Aiden and her beloved cats, Domino and Casey.

Friends may call after 1 PM on Friday, March 29, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 3:30-6:30 PM.

The funeral mass will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 10 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Haley McManus memorial fund. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.
## OBITUARIES

**SISTER MARYLyn KRAUS, CHM**

Sister Marilyn Kraus, CHM, 91, died at 10:36 a.m. Sunday, March 24, 2019, at LaHarpe Davier Health Care Center in LaHarpe, Illinois.

Born July 26, 1927, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of John and Minnie (Bruegger) Kraus.

She graduated from Sts. Peter and Paul High School in Nauvoo in 1945 and Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa in 1949. She became a member of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in September, 1948, making perpetual vows in July, 1954. She taught for twenty years in high schools in Ottumwa and Marshalltown, Iowa, and at Ottumwa Heights College in Ottumwa. She was granted a MS degree in biology from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a MA degree-emphasis on medical librarianship from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She received several National Science Foundation grants for summer study at various universities throughout the country. In September 1973 she was appointed Chief, Medical Library Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iowa City, Iowa. In August, 1995 she returned to Nauvoo and helped in the family businesses.

Surviving are two nephews: Daniel L. Kraus of Nauvoo, Illinois and Jonathan Kraus of Sunrise, Florida; five nieces: Cathy Crynes of Lakewood, Colorado, Deborah Allen of Nauvoo, Illinois, Diane Hau of Annapolis, Maryland, Rosemary Flanagan of Canton, Georgia, Elaine Morthorst of Walkersville, Maryland and several grand-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister: Dorothy Morthorst; one brother: Elmer J. Kraus and two nephews: David and James Kraus.

Sister Marilyn was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. She was a member of the Nauvoo Historical Society and served two years on the Board of Directors. She enjoyed plants and could be found giving water and TLC to those in boxes in front of the company businesses.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at Schmitz – Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, Illinois, where with family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that evening.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 28, 2019, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Father Tony Trosley as Celebrant.

Burial will be at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo.

Memorials may be made in her memory to: Sisters of Humility, 820 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church or School, P.O. Box 147, Nauvoo, IL 62354, or the Nauvoo Historical Society, 1380 Mulholland Street, Nauvoo, IL 62354.

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

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**IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS**

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**Lotto America**

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<td>Power Play: 3</td>
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(319).371.4125
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OBITUARIES

DR. MELANIE JOAN SCHULTE

Dr. Melanie Joan Schulte, of Frisco, Texas passed away at the age of 72 on March 5, 2019 with her husband and daughter by her side. Melanie was born on February 14, 1947 to the late Luan C. Jewell and spent much of her early life in southeastern Iowa and western Illinois. She was married to William (Bill) Aloys Schulte, Jr. in 1980 and they lived in Fort Madison, Iowa and then in the San Antonio and Canyon Lake areas of Texas for almost 30 years before relocating to Frisco. She received all three of her degrees from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio while raising her daughter and working full-time as an executive at multiple Fortune 500 companies. Melanie is survived by her husband Bill; daughter Sommer Lee (James) Coutou, of Austin, Texas; grandchildren Amelie and Sam; sister Robin Stanaway of Newport News, Virginia; and cousins Darla Newberry and Sharon Sutcliffe (James) Coutu, of Austin, Texas; grandchildren Amelie and Sam; sister Robin Stanaway of Newport News, Virginia; and cousins Darla Newberry and Sharon Sutcliffe (James) Coutu, of Austin, Texas; grandchildren Amelie and Sam; sister Robin Stanaway of Newport News, Virginia; and cousins Darla Newberry and Sharon Sutcliffe of Dallas City, Illinois.

She was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, sister, educator and friend. She was preceded in death by her sister Jeanne Dammling in 2006. Melanie had a lifelong passion for teaching and started one of the first Montessori schools in her region of Iowa. She went on to teach countless collegiate and graduate classes. She was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, sister, educator and friend. The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

Memorial services will be held at 10 AM Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that donations be made to the Dr. Melanie Schulte Scholarship Fund. Donate by visiting https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/SCHULTE or by texting SCHULTE to 71777.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM TED KATSUMES

William Ted Katsumes, 70 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, March 25, 2019 at his home. He was born December 4, 1948 in Keokuk, IA the son of William Ted, Sr. and Joan Ritchey Katsumes. Ted was united in marriage to Pamela Montgomery in 1976. She survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Leecie (DJ) Jones of Keokuk, one son, Jake Katsumes of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Natalie Jones, Dylon Howie, Jacob Jones and Hallee Howie, one brother, David (Tammy) Katsumes of Elgin, IA, one sister, Karen (David) Johnson of Lake Ozark, MO and several nieces and nephews.

Ted graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School with the Class of 1967. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War from 1968-1971.

He was a member of All Saints Catholic Church and also of the VFW Post 3508, both in Keokuk.

Ted had been the owner and operator of the Tee Pee Lounge in Keokuk since 1977. Ted enjoyed playing cards, fishing and cruising around town.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Father Robert Lathrop officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

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

Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post #41.

On-line condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

WILLIAM TED KATSUMES

MELVIN DUNCAN, JR.

Melvin Duncan Jr., 60, of Marshalltown and formerly in LaHarpe, IL passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 8:41 PM at the VA Hospital in Des Moines.

He was born on November 23, 1958 in LaHarpe, IL to Melvin and Barbara Land Duncan Sr. Melvin helped his Dad farm in his early years and he served his country in the US Army. He enjoyed model cars when he was young and recently enjoyed recreational crafts and making knots.

Survivors include his Dad, Melvin Duncan, Sr. of Stronghurst, IL; three sisters, Brenda Parker of Ft. Madison, Tina (Kevin) Buck of Danville and Deborah Kemp; a brother, Jeff Duncan of Troy, MI; his grand-mother, Ruth Duncan of Stronghurst, IL; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his Mom and nephew, Joshua Pender.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and a graveside service with military rites will take place at Stronghurst Cemetery at a later date. On-line condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 29 Mar
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 47.8º F | Low – 43.0º F

SAT 30 Mar
Scattered Clouds
High– 42.4º F | Low – 31.1º F

SUN 31 Mar
Clear
High– 38.4º F | Low – 26.0º F

MON 01 Apr
Partially Cloudy
High– 50.0º F | Low – 34.6º F

TUE 02 Apr
Scattered Clouds
High– 55.0º F | Low – 48.9º F

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Medapolis Dental Care
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New London Dental Care
319-367-2081

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OpenWeatherMap
Biggest benefit came from theology

earth, friendly, and obviously very intelligent.
With heavy heart our 12-step group had to leave the Presbyterian Church. You see, the Presbyterian Church was too alive and vibrant, with activities almost every night. People in addiction recovery guard their anonymity religiously, and there was just too much traffic in and out of the church. We found another place where there wasn’t as much going on. The Presbyterian Church was sad to see us leave, but understood.

Years later there was an art contest at the church. I was just starting photography and thought I would enter. I’ll be darned if one of my photos didn’t win—“Sheep in Winter”—a pastoral scene. The award even had a little cash with it. Groovy. That first award at the Presbyterian Church launched my career as an artist.

When Ginnie and I got married, we started going to the Presbyterian Church. Ginnie had been a Presbyterian in her former life, so it was a natural progression. I knew the people and a lot about the church, so if it would make my wife happy, we’d try it. Ginnie

the church, so if it would make
knew the people and a lot about
so it was a natural progression. I

a Presbyterian in her former life, the church.

My blood sacrifice?

was always at the Presbyterian Church. I donated one of my photographs and one of my metal sculptures. On the night of the auction, I was petrified that no one would like my art, and it would go for a minimal bid, if bid on at all. Much to my surprise and sweaty palms, a little bidding war ensued over both pieces. That meant so much to me. The church liked my art.

So, my first 12-step meeting in Mt. Pleasant was at the Presbyterian Church, my first art award, my first creative writing class, they purchased my art at auction, and it’s where I donated blood. Talk about a multipurpose church! However, the biggest benefit from the church came, not from what it could do for me, but its theology. During their service, there is a period of silent confession, followed by a song or scripture of forgiveness. After going through this Sunday after Sunday, I finally realized, I am forgiven, and sent as a servant! What a revelation! I no longer have to carry around this burden of guilt and shame. I am a servant! What a revelation! I no longer have to carry around this burden of guilt and shame. I am forgiven, now there is work to be done. What a church!

Note: This is just my experience. It is an individual journey and, hopefully, as rewarding, if not more so.

Have a good story? Call or email Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant.

Note: This is just my experience. It is an individual journey and, hopefully, as rewarding, if not more so.

Have a good story? Call or email Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant.

Tis’ The Season of Gifting... Do your part during this year’s Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you’re choosing products safe for our planet.

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!
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HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP: United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator.

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant, and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual at this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden. (garden is located at 2006 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less. Times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

Lee County Conservation
Part-Time Beach Concessionaire (Temporary)

Pollmiller Park Beach, West Point

Hourly Starting Pay: $10.00


All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61 Montrose, IA 52639. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at www.leecounty.org.

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer.

Lee County Conservation
Part-Time Conservation Aide (Temporary)

Lee County Conservation Center, Montrose, IA

Hourly Starting Pay: $10.00


Applications: All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61, Montrose, IA 52639. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at www.leecounty.org.

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer.

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Pen City current

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Pen City Current - Friday, March 29, 2019 - 7
New school now in voters’ hands

VOTING - Continued from Page 1

district handled awarding the construction manager contract.

"Since the School District has opted to disregard the plans presented by Baxter Construction, unnecessarily spend additional taxpayer money, and implement a program that does not benefit young athletes in the fashion proposed by Baxter Construction, the Foundation cannot continue to supplement the School District's efforts to grow its youth sports programs; especially, when the District itself chose to ignore the presented plans and waste available financial resources," Baxter said in a previous story.

During the proposals to the board, Baxter also offered to work out a lump sum contract, which he said was never given consideration. In a previous article in the Pen City Current, Baxter said the decision was "a let down and wasteful spending".

He said he believes the community needs a new elementary school, but said there are more cost effective ways to get it done.

The district, in a release issued Wednesday, indicated they went with a company with more experience in school construction.

"The district has also engaged a construction manager with over 15 employees that have deep ties to the district, and extensive experience with educational facilities to help manage costs and construction."

The district held a meeting Feb. 4 with about 100 community residents and at that meeting indicated they wanted new ball fields left out of the proposal, but would spend extra to increase traffic efficiencies and safety at the campus on 48th and Bluff Road.

According to the release, that session set the focus for the new bond.

"The session's primary focus was on costs and finding a plan that the community would support. The overall consensus of the group was that the project needed to focus only on the absolute needs of the district which was a new elementary, and additional resources for traffic and site safety."

The release also indicated the district wanted to build on current successes but aging facilities was a drag on that momentum.

"The biggest challenge our district faces is that of our aging facilities. Our two oldest schools Richard-son Elementary (100 years old) and Lincoln Elementary (84 years old) houses over 33% of our students. They were built when technology, safety, and modern 21st century education were not a concern. Updating and maintaining these two facilities far exceed costs of other options."

The district will carry $30 million debt service on the building if approved, which, according to its proposed property tax levy for 2019-2020, would carry a $2.70/$1,000 assessed valuation on tax statements.

The current total property tax rate proposed by the district for the next fiscal year is $14.60/$1,000, an increase of .16 over the current year's $14.44 rate.

The district, in its release, spelled out the benefits of the new building:

- All 600 of our youngest students would be provided a modern educational facility
- Pre-kindergarten program would be added to district curriculum
- Facility would be open Fall 2021
- The district's intent would be to sell existing schools to interested parties for repurposing
- District-wide busing and transportation would be provided to all PK-8 grade students
- Overall budget not to exceed $30 million
- Cost per acre on average will be $0.18 cents a year

FORT MADISON Fort Madison Community Hospital will be hosting their annual Women’s Health Conference on Saturday, May 4, 2019 starting at 9 a.m. This year’s conference is titled "Appreciating the Beauty Around Us” taking time to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us every day. The conference will take place in the conference rooms of the Business Center, lower level east addition at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

This year’s conference will present area women an opportunity to practice prevention with health screenings that include blood pressure checks, body mass index and blood sugar. Screenings will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The screenings will take place in the Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Center. These free screenings will be followed by a light breakfast and a dynamic dose of live entertainment presented by Dr. Celina Peerman.

Dr. Peerman’s presentation, “SQUIRREL!” will take a humorous look at distractions in life and the role of focus on achieving our goals.

There will be door prizes and free childcare for children aged six months to ten years. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend this free event. For more information, call 319-376-2244 or visit the FMCH website www.fmchosp.com.