State prison officials awaiting substance test

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – State Department of Corrections officials are still waiting on results being done on a substance that was sent as part of ongoing investigation into what sickened an Iowa State Penitentiary staffer more than a week ago.

Cord Overton, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Corrections said Friday, test results have not been received yet to identify what substance was on or in a bottle of eye drops that sent the staffer to the local hospital.

“You believe they are doing some extensive testing,” Overton said Friday. The staffer member became extremely ill after coming into contact with an unknown substance that is believed to have come from a bottle of eye drops.

Other staff at the institution quickly quarantined the staff member to become ill is in custody of the State Crime Lab in Ankeny for testing by the Division of Criminal Investigations.

Area students win FMAAA awards

HTC’s Graham’s ‘Study Buddies’ wins Best of Show

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON – April always marks the strong regional high school art competition at FMAAA gallery, featuring Central Lee, Eldon, Ft. Madison, Hamilton, Holy Trinity Catholic, and Keokuk.

Schools self-jury entering up to 22 pieces in the divisions of black-and-white drawing, color drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, and 3D. Overall Best of Show and 1st-3rd ribbons are awarded per division with honorable mention awards at juror’s discretion. Lee County Bank is the sponsor for this month’s exhibit with viewing available on Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-5pm.

The show was juried by tan dem artists from Burlington, Karla Mundt and Fritz Goeckner. Fritz has the feature exhibition at FMAAA in November. Both of them are long-term members of Burlington Art Center and FMAAA. All jurors comment to the quality of the regional competition causing hardship when judging. By melding and compromising they came to a dual conclusion while “still having the ability to ride back in the same car together.” They looked for originality in concept that showed a different point of view over quality of technique.

Deanna Warner, an 11th grader at Fort Madison High School, won best painting at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association’s High School competition this month, with this painting “Willow”. Courtesy photo.

Best of Show was awarded to Claire Graham of HTC for “Study Buddies”. She will receive the monetary stipend from Personal Touch Portraits. This is the second Best of Show win for Claire in the last few years. 1st Place in Black&White drawing is Alita Bossler, 9th grade at Eldon for “Pipes”. 2nd Place went to Central Lee senior Jordan Nagel won 1st place in the colored drawing division of the Fort Madison Area Arts Association’s High School competition this month. The student artwork will be on display throughout April. Above left, Deanna Warner won 1st in painting with “Willow”.

Natalie Vye, 12th grade at Central Lee for “Whatever”. 3rd Place went to Annabelle King, 10th grade at FMHS for “Staircase to the Soul”. Abagad Rodriguez, a senior at Keokuk, took an Honorable Mention ribbon in drawing.

Colored Drawing division winner was Jordan Nagel, a senior at Central Lee for chromatic drawing of “Seadog”. Amber Ludwig, a sophomore at Eldon, won second place with “Waiting”. See WINNERS, page 4

Clute enters state teen pageant

Sponsors sought to help defray costs

FORT MADISON – Madison Clute was chosen as a state finalist at the ‘National American Miss’ pageant in Cedar Rapids last month. On June 29-30th she will represent Ft. Madison, Iowa at the Junior Teen level. The state pageant competition for “Miss Junior Teen Iowa” will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Madison Clute will be representing Fort Madison in the upcoming Miss Junior Iowa Teen contest. Courtesy photo.

‘National American Miss’ is a program designed for today’s girl. It’s a program based on the foundational principal of fostering positive self-image by enhancing the natural beauty within. The pageant contest is held for girls in five different age groups at the state and See PAGEANT, page 3

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**OBITUARIES**

**PAMELA JO DAGGS**

Pamela Jo Daggs, 63 of LaGrange, MO died Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Hannibal Regional Hospital in Hannibal, MO.

She was born December 27, 1955 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Vic and Thelma Azinger Riddle. On April 21, 1984 she was united in marriage to Matthew Daggs in Keokuk. He survives.

Other survivors include two sons, Shannon Daggs of LaGrange, MO and Ryan Daggs of LaGrange, MO, one step-brother, Mike Jackson of Montrose, IA, one step-sister, Patty Jackson of Ft. Madison, IA her step-mother, Donna Riddle of Montrose, father-in-law, Samuel Daggs of Montrose, brothers-in-law David Daggs (Lynda) of Montrose, Doug Daggs (Sherry) of Keokuk, Roger Daggs (Marty) of Keokuk, sister-in-law, Pam Collette (Tim) of Grafton, ND and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Paula Burke, her mother-in-law, Nova Joan Daggs, one nephew, Tony Jackson and one niece, Nicole Marie Jackson.

Pamela graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1974.

She had been employed by several area businesses through the years, including Midway Convenience Store, Canton Nursing Home in Canton, MO, Coil Manufacturing and Canton Piccadilly, both in Canton and most recently at Lowe’s in Quincy, IL as an assistant manager.

Pamela enjoyed all types of crafts, going to flea markets and yard sales and camping. She loved to read, especially mysteries and her favorite author was James Patterson.

She was a member of the Keokuk Moose Lodge and the Moose Auxiliary.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

**MICHAEL RAY RUDD**

Michael Ray Rudd, 67 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Sunday, April 14, 2019 at the Great River Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born December 28, 1951 in Fort Madison, a son of James and Nelly (Heidbreder) Rudd.

Rudd was a veteran of the United States Army. He worked for Hall’s Construction for 27 years.

He is survived by his wife, Penny Rudd of Fort Madison; three sons: Jason, Erik, and Jesse Rudd; one daughter, Amy Popejoy; three brothers: Jimmy, Jerry, and Danny Rudd; one sister, Ila Hamilton; four grandchildren: Emily, Logan, Dillan, and Madison; one great grandson; nieces and nephews; his dog, Molly, and cat, Adel. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Gary and Terry; and one sister, Suzanne.

Per his wishes his body has been cremated. A graveside service and burial with full military rites by the Fort Madison Veterans Honor Guard will be held at 1:00 pm Monday, April 22, 2019 at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Rudd Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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**FM woman arrested with meth**

FORT MADISON – A Fort Madison woman was arrested by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force on Thursday after an investigation into alleged felony drug activity.

Emily Cox, 24, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on Thursday at her residence in Fort Madison. Cox is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine, within 1000 feet of a public park, class C felony with an enhancement. Cox also had another outstanding arrest warrant from another agency.

The arrest of Cox stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.
Enchilada sale part of Clute’s fundraising

PAGEANT - Continued from Page 1

national level.

Madison is the daughter of Ty and Cathie (Ramirez) Clute. Madison is 14 and a freshman at FMHS. Her hobbies include FFA, Tennis, Show Choir and spending time with family and friends. She is currently asking for donations and sponsors to help fund her participation in the state competition.

Her parents will be taking orders for vegetable and meat enchiladas to raise money for Madison. The deadline for order is May 18th. Call 319-371-0939 to place your order. All money raised will be used to help pay Madison’s pageant expenses.

Any business or person interested can also become a sponsor for Madison and make a tax-deductible donation. Receipts will be granted upon request.

“I appreciate your support and look forward to representing Ft. Madison in June!” Clute said.

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WEVER – This morning, Iowa Fertilizer experienced an unplanned interruption to our production. The plant will begin the restart process immediately. Iowa Fertilizer is deeply committed to communicating with all stakeholders and community members to ensure everyone is aware of these activities.

Company officials didn't elaborate on the details of the operations interruption when contacted Monday morning.

Over the next few days, higher than normal flaring, accompanied by higher than normal noise levels due to the flaring and other steam venting will be apparent at the site.

Company officials said the flaring during startups is, by design, safe and is harmless to the environment or the surrounding community. The flaring will have periods of changes in color and intensity as we advance through startup of our different stages of the process. Intensity at night could be amplified by the particular timing of a startup stage or due to low cloud cover.

Officials said Iowa Fertilizer is within full compliance of all air quality permits and regulations regarding these flares. The plant startup will be completed as soon as practically possible as it is our intent to get back to full production and no flaring in the next few days.

According to a post on the Iowa Fertilizer Company’s Facebook page, where the news was released, “the Iowa Fertilizer Company will maintain our commitment and focus on safety, the environment and the well-being of our surrounding community during these startup activities. At Iowa Fertilizer, we take safety very seriously and work diligently to always be a good neighbor.

Iowa Fertilizer Co. is deeply committed to communicating with all stakeholders and community members to ensure everyone is aware of activities that may impact or be noticed in our neighborhood.”

FMHS’s Warner wins 1st in painting division

WINNERS - Continued from Page 1

on the Band”. Masi McCubbins, a junior at Eldon, took third place with pastel of “The Fox”. Two Honorable Mentions were awarded in this division going to Morgan Meierotto, sophomore at FMHS, and Taylor Thompson, a senior at Hamilton.

First Place in Photography went to Olivia Smith, 11th grade at Keokuk. She will win the Ernie and Peggy Hobbs Memorial Photography stipend. Second Place was Allysen White, 9th grade at FMHS. Third Place went to Olivia Smith with an Honorable Mention going to Keokuk’s MacKenzie Northup in 12th grade. The 3D/Sculpture division went to Calem MacLearn, 10th at FMHS for “Mr. Robot”. 2nd Place to Sierra Mertens, 12th grade at Central Lee, for “Little Cotton Tail”. 3rd Place went to Kelsey Vorhies, 11th grade at Eldon with a Woven Ceramic Bowl. An Honorable Mention went to Lilly Scott, 10th grade for FMHS with a massive sculpted owl.

The painting division first place went to Deanna Warner, 11th grade FMHS with “Willow”. Second place went to Rachel Heilman, 10th grade FMHS with “In My Wake”. Third was awarded to Corrine Keenen 12th grade FMHS for “Los Tigers”. Honorable Mention ribbons were awarded in painting to Cassie Campbell of Holy Trinity and Christopher Diephus of Eldon.

The Mixed Media division houses any piece utilizing multiple mediums, collage, computer design, printmaking, woodburning, and 2D stained glass. All the ribbons went to collage works. 1st Place ribbon went to Kylie Hernandez, 10th grade at FMHS, with “Nostalgia”. 2nd Place ribbon went to Vivi Linna, 12th grade at FMHS with “Pigeon”. 3rd Place went to Baily Horning, 12th grade Central Lee with “Blue Eyes in the News”. Honorable Mention ribbon went to Cassie Campbell, 10th grade Holy Trinity with “Graecie”.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners of another great Annual High School Competition. Can always see the show after the show 5pm on Guitar Tuesday’s at FMAAA. Also find the Easter Egg Basket at the gallery for a chance to win Egg-Stravaganza Bingo over the next week in downtown Ft. Madison. Winner will be drawn April 24th for their own blow-out basket of goodies.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371-4125.

Lotto Drawings

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<td>Mega Millions®</td>
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Hello, Spring!
FMHS boys get soccer revenge on Panthers

Bowker handles keeper duties and records 10 saves in 2-1 win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison boys soccer team likes playing at home where they can spread out, get comfortable and win some games.

The Hounds got revenge on the Mt. Pleasant Panthers Monday night at the Baxter Sports Complex, where the visitors scored a 1-0 win over Fort Madison to open the season on March 30.

The Bloodhounds are coming off a 6-2 loss at Central Lee Friday night. The loss prompted Head Coach Kevin Wellman to put 6'4" senior Justin Bowker in as keeper Monday and the senior responded with 10 saves in a 2-1 win.

All the scoring was done in the first half with the Panthers finding the net early. Senior Nathan Rauenbuehler outraced the Hounds back defense and got a good angle to pop a high shot at Bowker, who had the ball go off his fingertips and into the top of the net for a 1-0 lead.

The Hounds Reuben Eid returned the favor at the 15-minute mark when he got loose in the 18-foot box off the Panthers' goal and fired a low shot off an assist from senior AJ Nolting, across the front of the goal low into the net to tie up the score.

Both teams would be kept out of the net until junior Austin Sexton scored unassisted where the Mt. Pleasant defense couldn't clear the ball in the box and Sexton was able to find an opening and pop it through.

Neither team would find the net in the second half, despite a flurry in the final two minutes by Mt. Pleasant to keep the ball on their third of the pitch, but only managing a couple soft shots at the goal, with the Bloodhounds mucking up any chance of a late rally.

The Panthers came into the game 5-1 with their only loss to state powerhouse Davenport North 0-2 in the season-opening Fort Madison Invitational.

“This was very good win for us,” Wellman said. “Most of our offense was to play to Austin and they keyed on him and at times he'd have eight people collapsing on him. So we were really crammed in there and weren't allowed to play in the lateral spaces as well as we wanted to.”

He said at home, they have more confidence in ball movement which moves defenses sideways and ultimately gets them out of position.

Wellman said Bowker's knowledge of the game is an advantage with him in the net, as opposed to his normal back defense position.

“Any ball on those fields is really a central ball and it makes the bodies tighter,” he said. “He knows what plays to make and we keyed on that in the second half with the wind in our face.”

- Kevin Wellman
FMHS Head Coach

Fort Madison senior Reuben Eid (3) battles with Mt. Pleasant’s Noel Lopez (5) to win a ball on the Hounds’ side of the field in the second half Monday night. The Hounds beat the Panthers 2-1 to even the season series at one game each.

Hounds go to Washington

The Fort Madison High School band performed during the President’s Cup, a military celebration in Washington D.C., during a week-long trip to the nation’s capitol. The group returned on Sunday.
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Please send or email cover letter and resume to Michele Ross, Administrator at mross@leecountyhth.org or to PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by April 29, 2019. LCHD is an EOE

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