FORT MADISON – Fort Madison's community theater is looking for actors to fill the cast of their December 2019 production of "The 12 Days of Christmas." Directors Kelly Shields and Richar Abel are looking for actors of various ages and types to fill the nearly 20 roles in the production. There's nothing to memorize for the audition and no previous experience is required.

The play follows Shirley, the partridge, who must get her performance together in time for the holidays? Not all of her singers can come. How will Shirley ever work with the public by selling concessions during performances. Stop by on audition nights to volunteer or send us a message on Facebook.

"The 12 Days of Christmas," will be presented by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing. Performances run December 6-8 & 12-15. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and the curtain rises on Sundays at 2:00 pm.

The Old Fort Players have been entertaining the community since 1981 and are located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue E. Call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

OFP looking for holiday play cast

By Chuck Vandenberge
PCC Editor

In the upcoming weeks, Pen City Current will talk with Fort Madison candidates in contested races as part of our full election coverage.

Fort Madison – They're similar in a lot of ways, but 1st Ward residents Rebecca Bowker and Chris Sorrentino also have a lot of differences that should make for an interesting election come Nov. 5.

The two are running for the city's 1st Ward City Council seat currently held by Chris Greenwald, who announced in August that he wouldn't be seeking another term.

Sorrentino is no stranger to running for office with a failed attempt two years ago to unseat current Mayor Brad Randolph. Bowker is making her first run at elected office.

Bowker, who made the decision to run a little more than two months ago, said the timing was right. She moved to the city in 1995 and said she was welcomed with open arms. She's worked for the Daily Democrat, Connection Bank, and now is the executive officer at the Iowa State Penitentiary. She also is in her 13th term on the Fort Madison Housing commission, a position that would need vacated if she wins election.

Sorrentino is an over-the-road owner/operator truck driver who moved to the city about a decade ago and now calls Fort Madison home. He's served on the city's Historic Preservation Commission and the North Lee County Historical Society Society. He also is a member of OOIDA, Owner/Operator Independent Driver's Association, a truck driver advocacy group.

Both Sorrentino and Bowker believe that communication from the council and city staff to residents needs to improve.

Sorrentino said he would like to see an enhanced effort to see a better audience to the city's livestream city council meetings. He said he believes people are disenfranchised with their elected officials and that has fostered a lack of trust and therefore a lack of engagement.

"They just don't trust these people anymore. I hear from people that they call city hall, the 7700 number, punch in the extension and no one calls back. They've just lost faith and we need to get that back," Sorrentino said.

Bowker said she thinks elected officials could communicate better with residents through regular editorials or letters to the editor.

"There is a lot to be said for city leaders to do updates weekly, monthly whatever that looks like, whether it comes from the mayor, the city manager, or the council, I think there's an opportunity to give the residents a little more that just what's in the city council minutes," Bowker said.

"Give them an updates of projects, let them know why the curve down here isn't being updated, things other than just what's being recorded at city council meetings."

Both Sorrentino and Bowker agree that city finances are in peril, but cutting city staff probably isn't the answer, specifically the police and fire departments.

Bowker said reducing force there is off the table, but said she thinks additional performance objectives and fostered a lack of trust and therefore a lack of engagement.

See 1st Ward, page 9

LCHD changes immunization clinic schedule

By PCC Staff

Lee County Health Department announces a change in the times of their monthly Immunization Clinics. The Keokuk Clinic, located at Trinity United Methodist Church (2350 Plank Road) the second Thursday of the month, and the Fort Madison Clinic, located at LCHD office (#3 John Bennett Drive) the fourth Thursday of the month, will be from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm starting in October.

The October Keokuk clinic will be October 10th and October Fort Madison clinic will be October 24th, 2019.

Children and adolescents attending the clinics must not have received any immunizations since the last visit.

See CLINICS, page 9

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Reynolds to push volunteerism with state employees

DES MOINES - Today, Governor Kim Reynolds has directed the Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to develop a volunteer policy to help encourage state to employees make a difference in their communities through volunteerism. DAS will collaborate with all state department directors to consider how the policy best functions to benefit employees in all departments.

The announcement was made at the governor’s weekly press conference at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa in Des Moines. Watch the Governor’s remarks on Facebook here.

“Volunteering is as Iowan as pork chop on a stick at the State Fair,” said Gov. Reynolds. “Everyday, Iowans step up and make a difference together through volunteerism. Nationally, it is estimated that one in four employers offer some kind of paid volunteer time off, and we want to grow that here in Iowa. My team volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines today to encourage other Iowa employers to make volunteerism part of their company culture as well.”

Gov. Reynolds’ team also spent part of the day volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, an organization that provides a temporary home-away-from-home for families with children who are hospitalized or receiving treatment for a serious medical condition. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa has locations in Des Moines, Iowa City and Sioux City.

The organization is also a recipient of the Governor’s Charity Steer Show - held annually at the Iowa State Fair for the past 35 years. That event has raised $3.8 million dollars for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa with a record setting $280,000 raised for this alone.

At the press conference, Gov. Reynolds also encouraged Iowa business, families, and organizations looking to get involved and give back to the community to visit, volunteeriowa.org.

College fair planned at SCC Oct. 8

WEST BURLINGTON – Southeastern Community College will host College Representative Day on Tuesday, October 8 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Loren Walker Arena on the West Burlington Campus. Area high school juniors, seniors, and their guardians are invited to attend to learn more about their college options.

The college fair is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling.

Dana Chrisman, Enrollment Coordinator at Southeastern Community College, says she is pleased to hold this fair at the college.

“This is a great opportunity for teens to see what is available to them,” Chrisman said. "It’s really helpful to them as they decide which path is the right one for them and how they can make higher education a reality.”

Attendees can register for this event at www.gotocollegefairs.com.

For more information call Chrisman at (319) 208-3017.

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit: https://www.scciowa.edu/aboutscc/office_mktg_comm/news/.
JOHN CHARLES ALLEN

Mr. John Charles Allen, 84, of Nauvoo, Illinois passed away Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at the Blessing Hospital, Quincy, Illinois.

John was born on August 16, 1935 in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of John G. and Marian A. Eastburn Allen. On August 18, 1956, he married Rita K. Polipeter at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, West Point, Iowa. She survives.

Mr. Allen was a graduate of Dowling High School in Des Moines. He later attended Southeastern Community College and graduated from St. Ambrose College with a Bachelors Degree in Criminology. He was a Tool and Die Maker and Instructor, working for IAAP, Iowa State Penitentiary and Southeastern Community College. He was a member of the Sts. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church in Nauvoo, Knights of Columbus #1853, International Association of Machinist, AFSCME and Township Officials of Illinois. He also served as Supervisor of the Nauvoo Township Board for 26 years.


He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers: Jerry and Karl Allen and one sister: Patricia.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 28, 2019 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Msgr. Paul Showalter, Fr. Tony Trosley and Fr. Thomas Szydlik as co-celebrants. Burial will follow in the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo. Friends may call after noon Friday, September 27, at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo where the family will receive friends from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. with a Parish Rosary recited at 6:30 p.m. A memorial mass will be celebrated on October 19 at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 11 a.m. with the Rev. Msgr. Paul Showalter, officiating. The Rev. Fr. Tony Trosley and Fr. Thomas Szydlik are co-celebrants. Burial will be in the Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Nauvoo. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter & Paul Church, P.O. Box 518, Nauvoo, IL 62354 or to Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Center, 700 E. Park St., Nauvoo, IL 62354 in care of the Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home, Nauvoo, Illinois.

Pen City Current obituary policy The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

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<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
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<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Lotto America®</td>
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<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

ISU Extension to host Pasture Walk in Donnellson Oct. 10

DONELLSON – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will host a Pasture Walk on Thursday, October 10 from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Event will be held at the Jeff Buford’s Farm in Donnellson, near 1638 230th Street. This event is for anyone interested in learning about soil health, cost share assistance for grazing systems and developing a grazing plan.

In this session Patrick Wall, ISU Extension and Outreach Beef Specialist, will discuss how to develop a grazing plan that works for each individual. Patrick states, “There are so many factors that need to be considered before implementing chang-es to your grazing system. Just emulating what someone else is doing often doesn’t work.”

Additional speakers are Stacy Prassas and TJ Mathis with NRCS. Prassas will lead the soil health demonstration while Mathis will discuss what cost share assistance can be offered.

This event is free and open to the public. The Harrison Huskies 4-H group will provide a meal. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Whitney Weisinger at the Lee County Extension Office at 319-835-5116 or weisinge@iastate.edu. The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 8.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of an educational network supported by Iowa State University, local county governments, and the United States Department of Agriculture. ISU Extension and Outreach works to provide learning opportunities for citizens of Iowa by providing unbiased, research-based information that will improve quality of life.

Lady Hounds move even in conference volleyball

FORT MADISON – Senior Jillian Wiseman registered 18 kills and 15 digs to lead Fort Madison to a 3-game win over Keokuk at home Tuesday night.

Wiseman went 32-of-35 hitting and had a block as the Hounds won 25-10, 25-16, 25-22 to move even at 2-2 in Southeast Conference action and 5-14 overall.

Junior Lauren Bailey had 25 assists on the night and was 23-of-24 serving with one ace. Bailey also had 12 digs on the night. Sophomore Anna Lynk was 14 of 16 attacking with five kills, second best on the night for the Lady Hounds.


FMMS girls move to 4-0 on year

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Middle School 8th grade volleyball A team moved to 4-0 on the year with a two-game win over Keokuk at home Monday.

The Little Hounds downed Keokuk 21-17, 21-4 behind Lauren Helmick's 10 of 12 serving and eight aces. Alexis Beebe was seven of seven with two aces an Aija Jenkins went 12 of 14 at the line with seven aces.

The B team is now 3-1 after sweeping Keokuk 21-13, 21-16. Alexis Whaley was 8 of 10 with six aces and Mazie Hotop went 12 of 14 with eight aces.

In the C game Keokuk won 21-16, 21-15. Jennifer Marshall was a perfect 12 of 12 serving in the match with 11 aces. The C team is also 3-1 on the year.
The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

**North Lee County Relay for Life**
The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year’s theme is “Idols of strength.”

**Weekly Book Sale**
Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sale from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday at the Public Library.

**Volunteer Fair**
The United Way and Fort Madison Public Library will be holding a volunteer fair Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library’s Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room. Refreshments will be provided and attenders will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

**Small Grand Things Grand Opening**
The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Booten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stuckerjurgery Dinging until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

**Diaper Drive**
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center of Fort Madison is spearheading the annual diaper drive during the month of September for families of Lee County in need. Diapers can be dropped at the center of Connection Bank.

**Special Olympics Fundraiser**
The Fort Madison Eagles Club will be hosting a fundraiser Oct. 12 for area Special Olympics student clubs. $3 admission and lunch will be available in the SCA cafeteria from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

**Witch’s Walk**
Wear a witch costume and come downtown in Fort Madison for an evening of fun. The event will be held Oct. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Fort Madison and is presented by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce.

**Fort Madison Farmer’s Market**
The farmer’s market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid’s Day at the market.

**Kensington events**
The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat. The Kensington is also offering a free classic movie at the Fox Theatre on Sept 23 at 1 PM. Sabrina staring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart.

**FMCH Auxiliary Shoe Sale**
The Fort Madison Community Hospital Auxiliary is partnering with Brown’s Shoe Fit Co. of Burlington to hold a shoe sale at FMCH on Friday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The event is a fundraiser for the auxiliary and will feature both men’s and women’s shoes.

**Mommy & Baby Gear**
Fort Madison Community Hospital will be hosting a Mommy & Baby Gear Fair on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the FMCH Conference Rooms. No registration fee or RSVP is required.

**Lighted Parade Float Work Nights**
Float work nights for the annual holiday light parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

**SCC Vendor Blender**
A vendor blender will be held on Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with proceeds benefiting SCC student club activities. $3 admission and lunch will be available in the SCC cafeteria from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

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www.leecountyhd.org
Candidates want to boost public engagement in processes

1st WARD - Continued from Page 1

measures should be in place to make sure resources are being utilized appropriately.

Sorrentino stopped short of saying anything was off the table to get the city's revenues straightened out, but said he wouldn't be in favor of reducing staff in either department.

"I support our fire and police departments fully. I can't say a reduction there would be off the table, but I certainly couldn't support it," he said.

City officials have discussed adding franchise taxes to utility providers to beef up city coffers, but both Bowker and Sorrentino said they want the city to explore all options and ask tough questions before increasing costs to residents.

"I'm data driven and we need to look at all the information and see how it affects all people," Bowker said.

"The last numbers I heard were that about 27% of people in Fort Madison were senior citizens. How that would impact them? Are we taking advantage of all the residents to come down and see you or have a gathering to educate them?" Bowker said that would be another chance for elected officials to get with their constituents to find out what the majority of people think.

"This would be another chance for you to invite residents to come down and see you or have a gathering and if you get 50 people to show up and 30 are in favor of it, then I would vote with the majority," she said.

Bowker said with regard to the disparity seen lately in engineering estimates and construction bids, she's been a part of that work in her role with the prison and there are lots of variables in that kind of work.

"You have a lot to consider there, such as the time between the engineer's estimate and the bidding process," Sorrentino said.

"I support our fire and police departments fully. I can count on the fingers of one hand and still have fingers left, the number of people who are in favor of that ordinance," Sorrentino said. "They just don't think Fort Madison is ready for it yet."

Some families to contact us to discuss other times create challenges for families to have their child immunized due to the consistently low attendance after 4 pm. Please bring Medicare cards through 5/10/2019. Asking $18,500. Accepting offers through 5/10/2019. By phone, in person or mail 319-372-1628 or 319-470-3581.

Lee County Health Department - 2019 FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE

11/12 Hillview Village Ft. Madison 10:30am-Noon
11/21 Eagle Bluff Apts. Ft. Madison 9:00am-10:00am
11/14 Trinity United Methodist Church Keokuk 1:00pm-4:30pm
11/11 River Terrace Keokuk 9:00am-10:00am
11/19 Hoerner YMCA Keokuk 8:30am-10:00am
11/20 Donnellson Public Library 12:30pm-1:30pm

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